

II.

The Five Books Against Marcion.

[Translated by Dr. Holmes.]

Introductory Notes.

Dedication.

To the Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of Chester.

My Dear Lord,

I am gratified to have your permission to dedicate this volume to your Lordship. It is the fruit of some two years' leisure labour. Every man's occupation spares to him some *λείψανα χρόνου*; and thirty years ago you taught me, at Oxford, how to husband these opportunities in the pleasant studies of Biblical and Theological Science. For that and many other kindnesses I cannot cease to be thankful to you.

But, besides this private motive, I have in your Lordship's own past course an additional incentive for resorting to you on this occasion. You, until lately, presided over the theological studies of our great University; and you have given great encouragement to patristic literature by your excellent edition of the Apostolic Fathers.²³¹⁴ To whom could I more becomingly present this humble effort to make more generally known the great merits of perhaps the greatest work of the first of the Latin Fathers than to yourself?

I remain, with much respect,

My dear Lord,

Very faithfully yours,

Peter Holmes.

2314 [The name of Bishop Jacobson was often introduced in our first volume, in notes to the Apostolic Fathers. He has recently "fallen asleep," after a life of exemplary labour "with good report of all men and of the Truth itself." His learning and piety were adorned by a profound humility, which gave a primitive cast to his character. At the Lambeth Conference, having the honour to sit at his side, I observed his extreme modesty. He rarely rose to speak, though he sometimes honoured me with words in a whisper, which the whole assembly would have rejoiced to hear. Like his great predecessor, Pearson, in many respects, the mere filings and clippings of his thoughts were gold-dust.]

Mannamead, Plymouth,²³¹⁵
 March, 1868.

Preface by the Translator.²³¹⁶

The reader has, in this volume a translation (attempted for the first time in English) of the largest of the extant works of the earliest Latin Fathers. The most important of Tertullian's writings have always been highly valued in the church, although, as was natural from their varied character, for different reasons. Thus his two best-known treatises, *The Apology* and *The Prescription against Heretics*, have divided between them for more than sixteen centuries the admiration of all intelligent readers,—the one for its masterly defence of the Christian religion against its heathen persecutors, and the other for its lucid vindication of the church's rule of faith against its heretical assailants. The present work has equal claims on the reader's appreciation, in respect of those qualities of vigorous thought, close reasoning, terse expression, and earnest purpose, enlivened by sparkling wit and impassioned eloquence, which have always secured for Tertullian, in spite of many drawbacks, the esteem which is given to a great and favourite author. If these books against Marcion have received, as indeed it must be allowed they have, less attention from the general reader than their intrinsic merit deserves, the neglect is mainly due to the fact that the interesting character of their contents is concealed by the usual title-page, which points only to a heresy supposed to be extinct and inapplicable, whether in the materials of its defence or confutation, to any modern circumstances. But many treatises of great authors, which have outlived their literal occasion, retain a value from their collateral arguments, which is not inferior to that effected by their primary subject. Such is the case with the work before us. If Marcionism is in the letter obsolete, there is its spirit still left in the church, which in more ways than one develops its ancient characteristics. What these were, the reader will soon discover in this volume; but reference may be made even here, in passing, to that prominent aim of the heresy which gave Tertullian his opportunity of proving the essential coherence of the Old and the New Testaments, and of exhibiting both his great knowledge of the details of Holy Scripture, and his fine intelligence of the progressive nature of God's revelation as a whole. This constitutes the charm of the present volume, which might almost be designated a *Treatise on the Con-*



2315 [Dr. Holmes is described, in the Edinburgh Edition, as "Domestic Chaplain to the Rt. Hon. the Countess of Rothes." He was B.A. (Oxon.) in 1840, and took orders that year. Was Head-Master of Plymouth Grammar School at one time, and among his very valuable and learned works should be mentioned, as very useful to the reader of this series, his Translation of Bull's *Defensio Fidei Nicænæ* (two vols. 8vo. Oxford, 1851), and of the same great author's *Judicium Ecclesiæ Catholicæ*, 8vo. Oxford, 1855.]

2316 [This preface and the frequent annotations of our author relieve the American editor, save very sparingly, from adding notes of his own.]

nection between the Jewish and the Christian Scriptures. How interesting this subject is to earnest men of the present age, is proved by the frequent treatment of it in our religious literature.²³¹⁷ In order to assist the reader to a more efficient use of this volume, in reference to its copiousness of Scripture illustration, a full *Index of Scriptural Passages* has been drawn up. Another satisfactory result will, it is believed, accompany the reading of this volume, in the evidence which it affords of the venerable catholicity of that system of biblical and dogmatic truth which constitutes the belief of what is called the “*orthodox*” Christian of the present day. Orthodoxy has been impugned of late, as if it had suffered much deterioration in its transmission to us; and an advanced school of thinkers has demanded its reform by a manipulation which they have called “free handling.” To such readers, then, as prize the deposit of the Christian creed which they have received, in the light of St. Jude’s description, as “*the faith once for all delivered to the saints*,” it cannot but prove satisfactory to be able to trace in Tertullian, writing more than sixteen centuries ago, the outlines of their own cherished convictions—held by one who cannot be charged with too great an obsequiousness to traditional authority, and who at the same time possessed honesty, earnestness, and intelligence enough to make him an unexceptionable witness to facts of such a kind. The translator would only add, that he has, in compliance with the wise canon laid down by the editors of this series, endeavoured always to present to the reader the meaning of the author in readable English, keeping as near as idiomatic rules allowed to the sense and even style of the original. Amidst the many well-known difficulties of Tertullian’s writings (and his *Anti-Marcion* is not exempt from any of these difficulties,²³¹⁸) the translator cannot hope that he has accomplished his labour without mistakes, for which he would beg the reader’s indulgence. He has, however, endeavoured to obviate the inconvenience of faulty translation by

2317 Two works are worth mentioning in connection with this topic for their succinct and handy form, as well as satisfactory treatment of their argument: Mr. Perowne’s Norrisian prize essay, entitled *The Essential Coherence of the Old and New Testaments* (1858), and Sir William Page Wood’s recent work, *The Continuity of Scripture*, as declared by the Testimony of our Lord, and of the evangelists and apostles.

2318 Bishop Kaye says of Tertullian (page 62): “He is indeed the harshest and most obscure of writers, and the least capable of being accurately represented in a translation;” and he quotes the learned Ruhnken’s sentence of our author: “*Latinitatis certè pessimum auctorem esse aio et confirmo.*” This is surely much too sweeping. To the careful student Tertullian’s style commends itself, by and by, as suited exactly to his subject—as the terse and vigorous expression of terse and vigorous thought. Bishop Butler has been often censured for an awkward style; whereas it is a fairer criticism to say, that the arguments of the *Analogy* and the *Sermons of Human Nature* have been delivered in the language best suited to their character. This adaptation of style to matter is probably in all great authors a real characteristic of genius. A more just and favourable view is taken of Tertullian’s Latin by Niebuhr, *Hist. Rom.* (Schmitz), vol. v. p. 271, and his *Lectures on Ancient Hist.* (Schmitz), vol. ii. p. 54.

quoting in foot-notes all words, phrases, and passages which appeared to him difficult.²³¹⁹ He has also added such notes as seemed necessary to illustrate the author's argument, or to explain any obscure allusions. The translation has been made always from Oehler's edition, with the aid of his scholarly *Index Verborum*. Use has also been made of Semler's edition, and the *variorum* reprint of the Abbé Migne, the chief result of which recension has been to convince the translator of the great superiority and general excellence of Oehler's edition. When he had completed two-thirds of his work, he happened to meet with the French translation of Tertullian by Mon^r. Denain, in Genoude's series, *Les Pères de l'Eglise*, published some twenty-five years ago. This version, which runs in fluent language always, is very unequal in its relation to the original: sometimes it has the brevity of an abridgment, sometimes the fulness of a paraphrase. Often does it miss the author's point, and never does it keep his style. The Abbé Migne correctly describes it: "Elegans potius quam fidissimus interpres, qui Africanæ loquelæ asperitatem splendenti ornavit sermone, egregiaque interdum et ad vivum expressa interpretatione recreavit."

2319 He has also, as the reader will observe, endeavoured to distinguish, by the help of type, between the true God and Marcion's god, printing the initials of the former, and of the pronouns referring to Him, in capitals, and those of the latter in small letters. To do this was not always an easy matter, for in many passages the argument amalgamates the two. Moreover, in the earlier portion of the work the translator fears that he may have occasionally neglected to make the distinction.

II.

The Five Books Against Marcion.

Book I.²³²⁰

Wherein is described the god of Marcion. He is shown to be utterly wanting in all the attributes of the true God.

Chapter I.—Preface. Reason for a New Work. Pontus Lends Its Rough Character to the Heretic Marcion, a Native. His Heresy Characterized in a Brief Invective.

Whatever in times past²³²¹ we have wrought in opposition to Marcion, is from the present moment no longer to be accounted of.²³²² It is a new work which we are undertaking in lieu of the old one.²³²³ My original tract, as too hurriedly composed, I had subsequently superseded by a fuller treatise. This latter I lost, before it was completely published, by the fraud of a person who was then a brother,²³²⁴ but became afterwards an apostate. He, as it happened, had transcribed a portion of it, full of mistakes, and then published it. The necessity thus arose for an amended work; and the occasion of the new edition induced me to make a considerable addition to the treatise. This present text,²³²⁵ therefore, of my work—which is the third as superseding²³²⁶ the second, but henceforward to be considered the first instead of the third—renders a preface necessary to this issue of the tract itself that no reader may be perplexed, if he should by chance fall in with the various forms of it which are scattered about.

The Euxine Sea, as it is called, is self-contradictory in its nature, and deceptive in its name.²³²⁷ As you would not account it hospitable from its situation, so is it severed from

2320 [Written A.D. 207. See Chapter xv. *infra*. In cap. xxix. is the token of Montanism which denotes his impending lapse.]

2321 Retro.

2322 Jam hinc viderit.

2323 Ex vetere.

2324 Fratrīs.

2325 Stilus.

2326 De.

2327 [Euxine=hospitable. One recalls Shakespeare: —“Like to the Pontick Sea Whose icy current and compulsive force Ne'er feels retiring ebb.”—*Othel.*]

our more civilised waters by a certain stigma which attaches to its barbarous character. The fiercest nations inhabit it, if indeed it can be called *habitation*, when life is passed in waggons. They have no fixed abode; their life has²³²⁸ no germ of civilization; they indulge their libidinous desires without restraint, and for the most part naked. Moreover, when they gratify secret lust, they hang up their quivers on their car-yokes,²³²⁹ to warn off the curious and rash observer. Thus without a blush do they prostitute their weapons of war. The dead bodies of their parents they cut up with their sheep, and devour at their feasts. They who have not died so as to become food for others, are thought to have died an accursed death. Their women are not by their sex softened to modesty. They uncover the breast, from which they suspend their battle-axes, and prefer warfare to marriage. In their climate, too, there is the same rude nature.²³³⁰ The day-time is never clear, the sun never cheerful,²³³¹ the sky is uniformly cloudy; the whole year is wintry; the only wind that blows is the angry North. Waters melt only by fires; their rivers flow not by reason of the ice; their mountains are covered²³³² with heaps of snow. All things are torpid, all stiff with cold. Nothing there has the glow²³³³ of life, but that ferocity which has given to scenic plays their stories of the sacrifices²³³⁴ of the Taurians, and the loves²³³⁵ of the Colchians, and the torments²³³⁶ of the Caucasus. Nothing, however, in Pontus is so barbarous and sad as the fact that Marcion was born there, fouler than any Scythian, more roving than the waggon-life²³³⁷ of the Sarmatian, more inhuman than the Massagete, more audacious than an Amazon, darker than the cloud,²³³⁸ (of Pontus) colder than its winter, more brittle than its ice, more deceitful than the Ister, more craggy than Caucasus. Nay²³³⁹ more, the true Prometheus, Almighty God, is mangled²³⁴⁰ by Marcion's blasphemies. Marcion is more savage than even the beasts of that barbarous region. For what beaver was ever a greater emasculator²³⁴¹ than he who has



2328 Cruda.

2329 De jugo. See Strabo (Bohn's trans.), vol. ii. p. 247.

2330 Duritia.

2331 Libens.

2332 Exaggerantur.

2333 Calet.

2334 [*Iphigenia* of Euripides.]

2335 [See the *Medea* of Euripides.]

2336 [*Prometheus* of Æschylus.]

2337 Hamaxobio. This Sarmatian clan received its name Ἀμαξόβιοι from its gypsy kind of life.

2338 [I fancy there is point in this singular, the sky of Pontus being always overcast. Cowper says: "There is but one cloud in the sky, But that doth the welkin invest," etc.]

2339 Quidni.

2340 Lancinatur.

2341 Castrator carnis. See Pliny, *N. H.* viii. 47 (Bohn's trans. vol. ii. p. 297).

abolished the nuptial bond? What Pontic mouse ever had such gnawing powers as he who has gnawed the Gospels to pieces? Verily, O Euxine, thou hast produced a monster more credible to philosophers than to Christians. For the cynic Diogenes used to go about, lantern in hand, at mid-day to find a man; whereas Marcion has quenched the light of his faith, and so lost the God whom he had found. His disciples will not deny that his first faith he held along with ourselves; a letter of his own²³⁴² proves this; so that for the future²³⁴³ a heretic may from his case²³⁴⁴ be designated as one who, forsaking that which was prior, afterwards chose out for himself that which was not in times past.²³⁴⁵ For in *as far as* what was delivered in times past and from the beginning will be held as truth, in *so far* will that be accounted heresy which is brought in later. But another brief treatise²³⁴⁶ will maintain this position against heretics, who ought to be refuted even without a consideration of their doctrines, on the ground that they are heretical by reason of the novelty of their opinions. Now, so far as any controversy is to be admitted, I will for the time²³⁴⁷ (lest our compendious principle of novelty, being called in on all occasions to our aid, should be imputed to want of confidence) begin with setting forth our adversary's rule of belief, that it may escape no one what our main contention is to be.

2342 Ipsius litteris.

2343 Jam.

2344 Hinc.

2345 Retro.

2346 He alludes to his book *De Præscriptione Hæreticorum*. [Was this work then already written? Dr. Allix thinks not. But see Kaye, p. 47.]

2347 Interdum. [Can it be that when all this was written (speaking of *ourselves*) our author had fully lapsed from Communion with the Catholic Church?]

Chapter II.—Marcion, Aided by Cerdon, Teaches a Duality of Gods; How He Constructed This Heresy of an Evil and a Good God.

The heretic of Pontus introduces two Gods, like the twin Symplegades of his own shipwreck: One whom it was impossible to deny, *i.e.* our Creator; and one whom he will never be able to prove, *i.e.* his own *god*. The unhappy man gained²³⁴⁸ the first idea²³⁴⁹ of his conceit from the simple passage of our Lord's saying, which has reference to human beings and not divine ones, wherein He disposes of those examples of a good tree and a corrupt one;²³⁵⁰ how that "the good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit, neither the corrupt tree good fruit." Which means, that an honest mind and good faith cannot produce evil deeds, any more than an evil disposition can produce good deeds. Now (like many other persons now-a-days, especially those who have an heretical proclivity), while morbidly brooding²³⁵¹ over the question of the origin of evil, his perception became blunted by the very irregularity of his researches; and when he found the Creator declaring, "I am He that createth evil,"²³⁵² inasmuch as he had already concluded from other arguments, which are satisfactory to every perverted mind, that God is the author of evil, so he now applied to the Creator the figure of the corrupt tree bringing forth evil fruit, that is, moral evil,²³⁵³ and then presumed that there ought to be another god, after the analogy of the good tree producing its good fruit. Accordingly, finding in Christ a different disposition, as it were—one of a simple and pure benevolence²³⁵⁴—differing from the Creator, he readily argued that in his Christ had been revealed a new and strange²³⁵⁵ divinity; and then with a little leaven he leavened the whole lump of the faith, flavouring it with the acidity of his own heresy.

He had, moreover, in one²³⁵⁶ Cerdon an abettor of this blasphemy,—a circumstance which made them the more readily think that they saw most clearly their two gods, blind though they were; for, in truth, they had not seen the one God with soundness of faith.²³⁵⁷ To men of diseased vision even one lamp looks like many. One of his gods, therefore, whom

2348 Passus.

2349 Instinctum.

2350 St. Luke vi. 43 sq.

2351 Languens.

2352 Isa. xlv. 7.

2353 Mala.

2354 [This purely good or *goodish* divinity is an idea of the Stoics. *De Præscript.* chap. 7.]

2355 Hospitam.

2356 Quendam. [See Irenæus, Vol. I. p. 352, this Series.]

2357 Integre.

he was obliged to acknowledge, he destroyed by defaming his attributes in the matter of evil; the other, whom he laboured so hard to devise, he constructed, laying his foundation²³⁵⁸ in the principle of good. In what articles²³⁵⁹ he arranged these natures, we show by our own refutations of them.



2358 Præstruendo.

2359 Or sections.

Chapter III.—The Unity of God. He is the Supreme Being, and There Cannot Be a Second Supreme.

The principal, and indeed²³⁶⁰ the whole, contention lies in the point of *number*: whether two Gods may be admitted, by poetic licence (if they must be),²³⁶¹ or pictorial fancy, or by the third process, as we must now add,²³⁶² of heretical pravity. But the Christian verity has distinctly declared this principle, “God is not, if He is not one;” because we more properly believe that that has no existence which is not as it ought to be. In order, however, that you may know that God is one, ask what God is, and you will find Him to be not otherwise than one. So far as a human being can form a definition of God, I adduce one which the conscience of all men will also acknowledge,—that God is the great Supreme existing in eternity, unbegotten, unmade without beginning, without end. For such a condition as this must needs be ascribed to that eternity which makes God to be the great Supreme, because for such a purpose as this is this very attribute²³⁶³ in God; and so on as to the other qualities: so that God is the great Supreme in form and in reason, and in might and in power.²³⁶⁴ Now, since all are agreed on this point (because nobody will deny that God is in some sense²³⁶⁵ the great Supreme, except the man who shall be able to pronounce the opposite opinion, that God is but some inferior being, in order that he may deny God by robbing Him of an attribute of God), what must be the condition of the great Supreme Himself? Surely it must be that nothing is equal to Him, *i.e.* that there is no other great supreme; because, if there were, He would have an equal; and if He had an equal, He would be no longer the great Supreme, now that the condition and (so to say) our law, which permits nothing to be equal to the great Supreme, is subverted. That Being, then, which is the great Supreme, must needs be *unique*,²³⁶⁶ by having no equal, and so not ceasing to be the great Supreme. Therefore He will not otherwise exist than by the condition whereby He has His being; that is, by His absolute uniqueness. Since, then, God is the great Supreme, our *Christian* verity has rightly declared,²³⁶⁷ “God is not, if He is not one.” Not as if we doubted

2360 Et exinde.

2361 Si Forte.

2362 Jam.

2363 Of eternity.

2364 We subjoin the original of this difficult passage: Hunc enim statum æternitati censendum, quæ summum magnum deum efficiat, dum hoc est in deo ipsa, atque ita et cetera, ut sit deus summum magnum et forma et ratione et vi et potestate.

2365 Quid.

2366 Unicus. [Alone of his kind.]

2367 As its first principle.

His being God, by saying, He is not, if He is not one; but because we define Him, in whose being we thoroughly believe, to be that without which He is not God; that is to say, the great Supreme. But then²³⁶⁸ the great Supreme must needs be unique. This Unique Being, therefore, will be God—not otherwise God than as the great Supreme; and not otherwise the great Supreme than as having no equal; and not otherwise having no equal than as being Unique. Whatever other god, then, you may introduce, you will at least be unable to maintain his divinity under any other guise,²³⁶⁹ than by ascribing to him too the property of Godhead—both eternity and supremacy over all. How, therefore, can two great Supremes co-exist, when this is the attribute of the Supreme Being, to have no equal,—an attribute which belongs to One alone, and can by no means exist in two?

2368 Porro.

2369 Forma.

Chapter IV.—Defence of the Divine Unity Against Objection. No Analogy Between Human Powers and God’s Sovereignty. The Objection Otherwise Untenable, for Why Stop at Two Gods?

But some one may contend that two great Supremes may exist, distinct and separate in their own departments; and may even adduce, as an example, the kingdoms of the world, which, though they are so many in number, are yet supreme in their several regions. Such a man will suppose that human circumstances are always comparable with divine ones. Now, if this mode of reasoning be at all tolerable, what is to prevent our introducing, I will not say a third god or a fourth, but as many as there are kings of the earth? Now it is God that is in question, whose main property it is to admit of no comparison with Himself. Nature itself, therefore, if not an Isaiah, or rather God speaking by Isaiah, will deprecatingly ask, “To whom will ye liken me?”²³⁷⁰ Human circumstances may perhaps be compared with divine ones, but they may not be with God. God is one thing, and what belongs to God is another thing. Once more:²³⁷¹ you who apply the example of a king, as a great supreme, take care that you can use it properly. For although a king is supreme on his throne next to God, he is still inferior to God; and when he is compared with God, he will be dislodged²³⁷² from that great supremacy which is transferred to God. Now, this being the case, how will you employ in a comparison with God an object as your example, which fails²³⁷³ in all the purposes which belong to a comparison? Why, when supreme power among kings cannot evidently be multifarious, but only unique and singular, is an exception made in the case of Him (of all others)²³⁷⁴ who is King of kings, and (from the exceeding greatness of His power, and the subjection of all other ranks²³⁷⁵ to Him) the very summit,²³⁷⁶ as it were, of dominion? But even in the case of rulers of that other form of government, where they one by one preside in a union of authority, if with their petty²³⁷⁷ prerogatives of royalty, so to say, they be brought on all points²³⁷⁸ into such a comparison with one another as shall make



2370 *Isa. xl. 18, 25.*

2371 *Denique.*

2372 *Excidet.*

2373 *Amittitur.* “Tertullian” (who thinks lightly of the analogy of earthly monarchs) “ought rather to have contended that the illustration strengthened his argument. In each kingdom there is only one supreme power; but the universe is God’s kingdom: there is therefore only one supreme power in the universe.”— Bp. Kaye, *On the Writings of Tertullian*, Third edition, p. 453, note 2.

2374 *Scilicet.*

2375 *Graduum.*

2376 *Culmen.*

2377 *Minutalibus regnis.*

2378 *Undique.*

it clear which of them is superior in the essential features²³⁷⁹ and powers of royalty, it must needs follow that the supreme majesty will redound²³⁸⁰ to one alone,—all the others being gradually, by the issue of the comparison, removed and excluded from the supreme authority. Thus, although, when spread out in several hands, supreme authority seems to be multifarious, yet in its own powers, nature, and condition, it is unique. It follows, then, that if two gods are compared, as two kings and two supreme authorities, the concentration of authority must necessarily, according to the meaning of the comparison, be conceded to one of the two; because it is clear from his own superiority that he is the supreme, his rival being now vanquished, and proved to be not the greater, however great. Now, from this failure of his rival, the other is unique in power, possessing a certain solitude, as it were, in his singular pre-eminence. The inevitable conclusion at which we arrive, then, on this point is this: either we must deny that God is the great Supreme, which no wise man will allow himself to do; or say that God has no one else with whom to share His power.

2379 Substantiis.

2380 Eliquetur.

Chapter V.—The Dual Principle Falls to the Ground; Plurality of Gods, of Whatever Number, More Consistent. Absurdity and Injury to Piety Resulting from Marcion's Duality.

But on what principle did Marcion confine his supreme powers to *two*? I would first ask, If there be two, why not more? Because if *number* be compatible with the substance of Deity, the richer you make it in number the better. Valentinus was more consistent and more liberal; for he, having once imagined two deities, Bythos and Sige,²³⁸¹ poured forth a swarm of divine essences, a brood of no less than thirty Æons, like the sow of Æneas.²³⁸² Now, whatever principle refuses to admit several supreme beings, the same must reject even two, for there is plurality in the very lowest number after one. After unity, *number* commences. So, again, the same principle which could admit two could admit more. After two, *multitude* begins, now that one is exceeded. In short, we feel that reason herself expressly²³⁸³ forbids the belief in more gods than one, because the self-same rule lays down one God and not two, which declares that God must be a Being to which, as the great Supreme, nothing is equal; and that Being to which nothing is equal must, moreover, be unique. But further, what can be the use or advantage in supposing two supreme beings, two co-ordinate²³⁸⁴ powers? What numerical difference could there be when two equals differ not from one? For that thing which is the same in two is one. Even if there were several equals, all would be just as much one, because, as equals, they would not differ one from another. So, if of two beings neither differs from the other, since both of them are on the supposition²³⁸⁵ supreme, both being gods, neither of them is more excellent than the other; and so, having no pre-eminence, their numerical distinction²³⁸⁶ has no reason in it. Number, moreover, in the Deity ought to be consistent with the highest reason, or else His worship would be brought into doubt. For consider²³⁸⁷ now, if, when I saw two Gods before me (who, being both Supreme Beings, were equal to each other), I were to worship them both, what should I be doing? I should be much afraid that the abundance of my homage would be deemed superstition rather than piety. Because, as both of them are so equal and are both included

2381 Depth and silence.

2382 See Virgil, *Æneid*, viii. 43, etc.

2383 Ipso termino.

2384 Paria.

2385 Jam.

2386 Numeri sui.

2387 Ecce.

in either of the two, I might serve them both acceptably in only one; and by this very means I should attest their equality and unity, provided that I worshipped them mutually the one in the other, because in the one both are *present* to me. If I were to worship one of the two, I should be equally conscious of seeming to pour contempt on the uselessness of a numerical distinction, which was superfluous, because it indicated no difference; in other words, I should think it the safer course to worship neither of these two Gods than one of them with some scruple of conscience, or both of them to none effect.



Chapter VI.—Marcion Untrue to His Theory. He Pretends that His Gods are Equal, But He Really Makes Them Diverse. Then, Allowing Their Divinity, Denies This Diversity.

Thus far our discussion seems to imply that Marcion makes his two gods equal. For while we have been maintaining that God ought to be believed as the one only great Supreme Being, excluding from Him every possibility²³⁸⁸ of equality, we have treated of these topics on the assumption of two equal *Gods*; but nevertheless, by teaching that *no* equals can exist according to the law²³⁸⁹ of the Supreme Being, we have sufficiently affirmed the impossibility that *two* equals should exist. For the rest, however,²³⁹⁰ we know full well²³⁹¹ that Marcion makes his gods unequal: one judicial, harsh, mighty in war; the other mild, placid, and simply²³⁹² good and excellent. Let us with similar care consider also this aspect of the question, whether *diversity* (in the Godhead) can at any rate contain two, since *equality* therein failed to do so. Here again the same rule about the great Supreme will protect us, inasmuch as it settles²³⁹³ the entire condition of the Godhead. Now, challenging, and in a certain sense arresting²³⁹⁴ the meaning of our adversary, who does not deny that the Creator is God, I most fairly object²³⁹⁵ against him that he has no room for any diversity in his gods, because, having once confessed that they are on a par,²³⁹⁶ he cannot now pronounce them different; not indeed that human beings may not be very different under the same designation, but because the Divine Being can be neither said nor believed to be God, except as the great Supreme. Since, therefore, he is obliged to acknowledge that the God whom he does not deny is the great Supreme, it is inadmissible that he should predicate of the Supreme Being such a diminution as should subject Him to another Supreme Being. For He ceases (to be Supreme), if He becomes subject to any. Besides, it is not the characteristic of God to cease from any attribute²³⁹⁷ of His divinity—say, from His supremacy. For at this rate the supremacy would be endangered even in Marcion's more powerful god, if it were capable of depreciation in the Creator. When, therefore, two gods are pronounced to be two great Su-

2388 Parilitatem.

2389 Formam.

2390 Alioquin.

2391 Certi (sumus).

2392 Tantummodo.

2393 Vindicet.

2394 Injecta manu detinens.

2395 Præscribo.

2396 Ex æquo deos confessus.

2397 De statu suo.

premes, it must needs follow that neither of them is greater or less than the other, neither of them loftier or lowlier than the other. If you deny²³⁹⁸ him to be God whom you call inferior, you deny²³⁹⁹ the supremacy of this inferior being. But when you confessed both gods to be divine, you confessed them both to be supreme. Nothing will you be able to take away from either of them; nothing will you be able to add. By allowing their divinity, you have denied their diversity.

2398 Nega.

2399 Nega.

Chapter VII.—Other Beings Besides God are in Scripture Called God. This Objection Frivolous, for It is Not a Question of Names. The Divine Essence is the Thing at Issue. Heresy, in Its General Terms, Thus Far Treated.

But this argument you will try to shake with an objection from the name of God, by alleging that that name is a vague²⁴⁰⁰ one, and applied to other beings also; as it is written, “God standeth in the congregation of the mighty;”²⁴⁰¹ He judgeth among the gods.” And again, “I have said, Ye are gods.”²⁴⁰² As therefore the attribute of supremacy would be inappropriate to these, although they are called gods, so is it to the Creator. This is a foolish objection; and my answer to it is, that its author fails to consider that quite as strong an objection might be urged against the (superior) god of Marcion: he too is called god, but is not on that account proved to be divine, as neither are angels nor men, the Creator’s *handiwork*. If an identity of names affords a presumption in support of equality of condition, how often do worthless menials strut insolently in the names of kings—your Alexanders, Cæsars, and Pompeys!²⁴⁰³ This fact, however, does not detract from the real attributes of the royal persons. Nay more, the very idols of the Gentiles are called gods. Yet not one of them is divine because he is called a god. It is not, therefore, for the name of god, for its sound or its written form, that I am claiming the supremacy in the Creator, but for the essence²⁴⁰⁴ to which the name belongs; and when I find that essence alone is unbegotten and unmade—alone eternal, and the maker of all things—it is not to its name, but its state, not to its designation, but its condition, that I ascribe and appropriate the attribute of the supremacy. And so, because the essence to which I ascribe it has come²⁴⁰⁵ to be called god, you suppose that I ascribe it to the name, because I must needs use a name to express the essence, of which indeed that Being consists who is called God, and who is accounted the great Supreme because of His essence, not from His name. In short, Marcion himself, when he imputes this character to his god, imputes it to the nature,²⁴⁰⁶ not to the word. That supremacy, then, which we ascribe to God in consideration of His essence, and not because of His name, ought, as we maintain, to be equal²⁴⁰⁷ in both the beings who consist of that substance for which the name of God is given; because, in as far as they are called gods (*i.e.* supreme beings, on the



2400 Passivo.

2401 כְּעֶרְחֵאֵל. Tertullian’s version is: *In ecclesia deorum*. The Vulgate: *In synagoga deorum*.

2402 Ps. lxxxii. 1, 6.

2403 The now less obvious nicknames of “Alex. Darius and Olofernes,” are in the text.

2404 Substantiæ.

2405 Vocari obtinuit.

2406 Statum.

2407 Ex pari.

strength, of course, of their unbegotten and eternal, and therefore great and supreme essence), in so far the attribute of being the great Supreme cannot be regarded as less or worse in one than in another great Supreme. If the happiness, and sublimity, and perfection²⁴⁰⁸ of the Supreme Being shall hold good of Marcion's god, it will equally so of ours; and if not of ours, it will equally not *hold* of Marcion's. Therefore two supreme beings will be neither equal nor unequal: not equal, because the principle which we have just expounded, that the Supreme Being admits of no comparison with Himself, forbids it; not unequal, because another principle meets us respecting the Supreme Being, that He is capable of no diminution. So, Marcion, you are caught²⁴⁰⁹ in the midst of your own Pontic tide. The waves of truth overwhelm you on every side. You can neither set up equal gods nor unequal ones. For there are not two; so far as the question of *number* is properly concerned. Although the whole matter of the two gods is at issue, we have yet confined our discussion to certain bounds, within which we shall now have to contend about separate peculiarities.

2408 Integritas.

2409 Hæsisti.

Chapter VIII.—Specific Points. The Novelty of Marcion's God Fatal to His Pretensions. God is from Everlasting, He Cannot Be in Any Wise New.

In the first place, how arrogantly do the Marcionites build up their stupid system,²⁴¹⁰ bringing forward a new god, as if we were ashamed of the old one! So schoolboys are proud of their new shoes, but their old master beats their strutting vanity out of them. Now when I hear of a new god,²⁴¹¹ who, in the old world and in the old time and under the old god was unknown and unheard of; whom, (*accounted as no one through such long centuries back, and ancient in men's very ignorance of him*),²⁴¹² a certain "Jesus Christ," and none else revealed; whom Christ revealed, *they say*—Christ himself new, *according to them, even, in ancient names*—I feel grateful for this conceit²⁴¹³ of theirs. For by its help I shall at once be able to prove the heresy of their tenet of a new deity. It will turn out to be such a novelty²⁴¹⁴ as has made gods even for the heathen by some new and yet again and ever new title²⁴¹⁵ for each several deification. What new god is there, except a false one? Not even Saturn will be proved to be a god by all his ancient fame, because it was a novel pretence which some time or other produced even him, when it first gave him godship.²⁴¹⁶ On the contrary, living and perfect²⁴¹⁷ Deity has its origin²⁴¹⁸ neither in novelty nor in antiquity, but in its own true nature. Eternity has no time. It is itself all time. It acts; it cannot then suffer. It cannot be born, therefore it lacks age. God, if old, forfeits the eternity that is to come; if new, the eternity which is past.²⁴¹⁹ The newness bears witness to a beginning; the oldness threatens an end. God, moreover, is as independent of beginning and end as He is of time, which is only the arbiter and measurer of a beginning and an end.

2410 Stuporem suum.

2411 [Cap. xix. *infra*.]

2412 The original of this obscure passage is: "Novum igitur audiens deum, in vetere mundo et in vetere ævo et sub vetere deo inauditum quem tantis retro seculis neminem, et ipsa ignorantia antiquum, quidam Jesus Christus, et ille in veteribus nominibus novus, revelaverit, nec alius antehac." The harsh expression, "quidam Jesus Christus," bears, of course, a sarcastic reference to the capricious and inconsistent novelty which Marcion broached in his heresy about Christ. [By some slight chance in punctuation and arrangement, I have endeavoured to make it a little clearer.]

2413 Gloriæ. [*Qu.* boast?]

2414 Hæc erit novitas quæ.

2415 Novo semper ac novo titulo.

2416 Consecravit.

2417 Germana.

2418 Censetur. A frequent meaning in Tertullian. See *Apol.* 7 and 12.

2419 We cannot preserve the terseness of the Latin: Deus, si est vetus, non erit; si est novus, non fuit.

Chapter IX.—Marcion's Gnostic Pretensions Vain, for the True God is Neither Unknown Nor Uncertain. The Creator, Whom He Owns to Be God, Alone Supplies an Induction, by Which to Judge of the True God.

Now I know full well by what perceptive faculty they boast of their new god; even their knowledge.²⁴²⁰ It is, however, this very discovery of a novel thing—so striking to common minds—as well as the natural gratification which is inherent in novelty, that I wanted to refute, and thence further to challenge a proof of this unknown god. For him whom by their knowledge²⁴²¹ they present to us as new, they prove to have been unknown previous to that knowledge. Let us keep within the strict limits and measure of our argument. Convince me there could have been an unknown god. I find, no doubt,²⁴²² that altars have been lavished on unknown gods; that, however, is the idolatry of Athens. And on uncertain gods; but that, too, is only Roman superstition. Furthermore, uncertain gods are not well known, because no certainty about them exists; and because of this uncertainty they are therefore unknown. Now, which of these two titles shall we carve for Marcion's god? Both, I suppose, as for a being who is still *uncertain*, and was formerly *unknown*. For inasmuch as the Creator, being a known God, caused him to be unknown; so, as being a certain God, he made him to be uncertain. But I will not go so far out of my way, as to say:²⁴²³ If God was unknown and concealed, He was overshadowed in such a region of darkness, as must have been itself new and unknown, and be even now likewise uncertain—some immense region indeed, one undoubtedly greater than the God whom it concealed. But I will briefly state my subject, and afterwards most fully pursue it, promising that God neither could have been, nor ought to have been, unknown. *Could* not have been, because of His greatness; *ought* not to have been, because of His goodness, especially as He is (supposed, by Marcion) more excellent in both these attributes than our Creator. Since, however, I observe that in some points the proof of every new and heretofore unknown god ought, for its test,²⁴²⁴ to be compared to the form of the Creator, it will be my duty²⁴²⁵ first of all to show that this very course is adopted by me in a settled plan,²⁴²⁶ such as I might with greater confidence²⁴²⁷ use in support of my argument. Before every other consideration, (let me ask) how it happens that

2420 Agnitione. The distinctive term of the *Gnostic* pretension was the Greek equivalent Γνώσις.

2421 Agnitione.

2422 Plane.

2423 Non evagabor, ut dicam.

2424 Provocari.

2425 Debebo.

2426 Ratione.

2427 Constantius.

you,²⁴²⁸ who acknowledge²⁴²⁹ the Creator to be God, and from your knowledge confess Him to be prior in existence, do not know that the other *god* should be examined by you in exactly the same course of investigation which has taught you how to find out a god in the first case? Every prior thing has furnished the rule for the latter. In the present question two gods are propounded, the unknown and the known. Concerning the known there is no²⁴³⁰ question. It is plain that He exists, else He would not be known. The dispute is concerning the unknown god. Possibly he has no existence; because, if he had, he would have been known. Now that which, so long as it is unknown, is an object to be questioned, is an uncertainty so long as it remains thus questionable; and all the while it is in this state of uncertainty, it possibly has no existence at all. You have a god who is so far certain, as he is known; and uncertain, as unknown. This being the case, does it appear to you to be justly defensible, that uncertainties should be submitted for proof to the rule, and form, and standard of certainties? Now, if to the subject before us, which is in itself full of uncertainty thus far, there be applied also arguments²⁴³¹ derived from uncertainties, we shall be involved in such a series of questions arising out of our treatment of these same uncertain arguments, as shall by reason of their uncertainty be dangerous to the faith, and we shall drift into those insoluble questions which the apostle has no affection for. If, again,²⁴³² in things wherein there is found a diversity of condition, they shall prejudice, as no doubt they will,²⁴³³ uncertain, doubtful, and intricate points, by the certain, undoubted, and clear sides²⁴³⁴ of their rule, it will probably happen that²⁴³⁵ (those points) will not be submitted to the standard of certainties for determination, as being freed by the diversity of their essential condition²⁴³⁶ from the application of such a standard in all other respects. As, therefore, it is two gods which are the subject of our proposition, their essential condition must be the same in both. For, as concerns their divinity, they are both unbegotten, unmade, eternal. This will be their essential condition. All other points Marcion himself seems to have made light of,²⁴³⁷ for



2428 Quale est ut.
2429 Agnoscis.
2430 Vacat.
2431 Argumenta ="proofs."
2432 Sin.
2433 Plane.
2434 Regulæ partibus.
2435 Fortasse an.
2436 Status principalis.
2437 Viderit.

he has placed them in a different²⁴³⁸ category. They are subsequent in the order of treatment; indeed, they will not have to be brought into the discussion,²⁴³⁹ since on the essential condition there is no dispute. Now there is this absence of our dispute, because they are both of them gods. Those things, therefore, whose community of condition is evident, will, when brought to a test on the ground of that common condition,²⁴⁴⁰ have to be submitted, although they are uncertain, to the standard²⁴⁴¹ of those certainties with which they are classed in the community of their essential condition, so as on this account to share also in their manner of proof. I shall therefore contend²⁴⁴² with the greatest confidence that he is not God who is to-day uncertain, because he has been hitherto unknown; for of whomsoever it is evident that he is God, from this very fact it is (equally) evident, that he never has been unknown, and therefore never uncertain.

2438 In diversitate.

2439 Nec admittentur.

2440 Sub eo.

2441 Formam.

2442 Dirigam.

Chapter X.—The Creator Was Known as the True God from the First by His Creation.
Acknowledged by the Soul and Conscience of Man Before He Was Revealed by
Moses.

For indeed, as the Creator of all things, He was from the beginning discovered equally with them, they having been themselves manifested that He might become known as God. For although Moses, some long while afterwards, seems to have been the first to introduce the knowledge of²⁴⁴³ the God of the universe in the temple of his writings, yet the birthday of that knowledge must not on that account be reckoned from the Pentateuch. For the volume of Moses does not at all initiate²⁴⁴⁴ the knowledge of the Creator, but from the first gives out that it is to be traced from Paradise and Adam, not from Egypt and Moses. The greater part, therefore,²⁴⁴⁵ of the human race, although they knew not even the name of Moses, much less his writings, yet knew the God of Moses; and even when idolatry overshadowed the world with its extreme prevalence, men still spoke of Him separately by His own name as God, and the God of gods, and said, "If God grant," and, "As God pleases," and, "I commend you to God."²⁴⁴⁶ Reflect, then, whether they knew Him, of whom they testify that He can do all things. To none of the writings of Moses do they owe this. The soul was before prophecy.²⁴⁴⁷ From the beginning the knowledge of God is the dowry of the soul, one and the same amongst the Egyptians, and the Syrians, and the tribes of Pontus. For their souls call the God of the Jews their God. Do not, O barbarian heretic, put Abraham before the world. Even if the Creator had been the God of one family, He was yet not later than your god; even in Pontus was He known before him. Take then your standard from Him who came first: from the Certain (must be judged) the uncertain; from the Known the unknown. Never shall God be hidden, never shall God be wanting. Always shall He be understood, always be heard, nay even seen, in whatsoever way He shall wish. God has for His witnesses this whole being of ours, and this universe wherein we dwell. He is thus, because not unknown, proved to be both God and the only One, although another still tries hard to make out his claim.

2443 Dedicasse.

2444 Institutat.

2445 Denique.

2446 See also *De test. anim.* 2, and *De anima*, 41. [Bp. Kaye refers (p. 166) to Profr. Andrews Norton of Harvard, with great respect: specially to a Note on this usage of the Heathen, in his *Evidences*, etc. Vol. III.]

2447 Prophetia, inspired Scripture.

Chapter XI.—The Evidence for God External to Him; But the External Creation Which Yields This Evidence is Really Not Extraneous, for All Things are God's. Marcion's God, Having Nothing to Show for Himself, No God at All. Marcion's Scheme Absurdly Defective, Not Furnishing Evidence for His New God's Existence, Which Should at Least Be Able to Compete with the Full Evidence of the Creator.

And justly so, they say. For who is there that is less well known by his own (inherent) qualities than by strange²⁴⁴⁸ ones? No one. Well, I keep to this statement. How could anything be strange²⁴⁴⁹ to God, to whom, if He were personally existent, nothing would be strange? For this is the attribute of God, that all things are His, and all things belong to Him; or else this question would not so readily be heard from us: What has He to do with things strange to Him?—a point which will be more fully noticed in its proper place. It is now sufficient to observe, that no one is proved to exist to whom nothing is proved to belong. For as the Creator is shown to be God, God without any doubt, from the fact that all things are His, and nothing is strange to Him; so the rival²⁴⁵⁰ god is seen to be no god, from the circumstance that nothing is his, and all things are therefore strange to him. Since, then, the universe belongs to the Creator, I see no room for any other god. All things are full of their Author, and occupied by Him. If in created beings there be any portion of space anywhere void of Deity, the void will be of a false deity clearly.²⁴⁵¹ By falsehood the truth is made clear. Why cannot the vast crowd of false gods somewhere find room for Marcion's god? This, therefore, I insist upon, from the character²⁴⁵² of the Creator, that God must have been known from the works of some world peculiarly His own, both in its human constituents, and the rest of its organic life;²⁴⁵³ when even the error of the world has presumed to call gods those men whom it sometimes acknowledges, on the ground that in every such case something is seen which provides for the uses and advantages of life.²⁴⁵⁴ Accordingly, this also was believed from the character of God to be a divine function; namely, to teach or point out what is convenient and needful in human concerns. So completely has the authority which has given influence to a false divinity been borrowed from that source, whence it had previously flowed forth to the true one. One stray vegetable²⁴⁵⁵ at



2448 Extraneous.

2449 Extraneum.

2450 Alius.

2451 Plane falsæ vacabit.

2452 Forma.

2453 Proprii sui mundi, et hominis et sæculi.

2454 [Kaye, p. 206.]

2455 Cicerculam.

least Marcion's god ought to have produced as his own; so might he be preached up as a new Triptolemus.²⁴⁵⁶ Or else state some reason which shall be worthy of a God, why he, supposing him to exist, created nothing; because he must, on supposition of his existence, have been a creator, on that very principle on which it is clear to us that our God is no otherwise existent, than as having been the Creator of this universe of ours. For, once for all, the rule²⁴⁵⁷ will hold good, that they cannot both acknowledge the Creator to be God, and also prove him divine whom they wish to be equally believed in as God, except they adjust him to the standard of Him whom they and all men hold to be God; which is this, that whereas no one doubts the Creator to be God on the express ground of His having made the universe, so, on the selfsame ground, no one ought to believe that he also is God who has made nothing—except, indeed, some good reason be forthcoming. And this must needs be limited to one of two: he was either *unwilling* to create, or else *unable*. There is no third reason.²⁴⁵⁸ Now, that he was unable, is a reason unworthy of God. Whether to have been unwilling to be a worthy one, I want to inquire. Tell me, Marcion, did your god wish himself to be recognised at any time or not? With what other purpose did he come down from heaven, and preach, and having suffered rise again from the dead, if it were not that he might be acknowledged? And, doubtless, since he was acknowledged, he willed it. For no circumstance could have happened to him, if he had been unwilling. What indeed tended so greatly to the knowledge of himself, as his appearing in the humiliation of the flesh,—a degradation all the lower indeed if the flesh were only illusory?²⁴⁵⁹ For it was all the more shameful if he, who brought on himself the Creator's curse by hanging on a tree, only pretended the assumption of a bodily substance. A far nobler foundation might he have laid for the knowledge of himself in some evidences of a creation of his own, especially when he had to become known in opposition to Him in whose territory²⁴⁶⁰ he had remained unknown by any works from the beginning. For how happens it that the Creator, although unaware, as the Marcionites aver, of any god being above Himself, and who used to declare even with an oath that He existed alone, should have guarded by such mighty works the knowledge of Himself, about which, on the assumption of His being alone without a rival, He might have spared Himself all care; while the Superior God, knowing all the while how well furnished in power His inferior rival was, should have made no provision at all towards getting Himself acknowledged? Whereas He ought to have produced works more illustrious and exalted still, in order that He might, after the Creator's standard, both be acknowledged as

2456 [—"uncique puer monstrator aratri," Virg. *Georg.* i. 19, and see Heyne's note.]

2457 Præscriptio.

2458 Tertium cessat.

2459 Falsæ. An allusion to the *Docetism* of Marcion.

2460 Apud quem.

God from His works, and even by nobler deeds show Himself to be more potent and more gracious than the Creator. _____

Chapter XII.—Impossibility of Acknowledging God Without This External Evidence²⁴⁶¹ Of His Existence. Marcion's Rejection of Such Evidence for His God Savours of Impudence and Malignity.

But even if we were able to allow that he exists, we should yet be bound to argue that he is without a cause.²⁴⁶² For he who had nothing (to show for himself as proof of his existence), would be without a cause, since (such) proof²⁴⁶³ is the whole cause that there exists some person to whom the proof belongs. Now, in *as* far as nothing ought to be without a cause, that is, without a proof (because if it be without a cause, it is all one as if it be not, not having the very proof which is the cause of a thing), in *so* far shall I more worthily believe that God does not exist, than that He exists without a cause. For he is without a cause who has not a cause by reason of not having a proof. God, however, ought not to be without a cause, that is to say, without a proof. Thus, as often as I show that He exists without a cause, although (I allow²⁴⁶⁴ that) He exists, I do really determine this, that He does not exist; because, if He had existed, He could not have existed altogether without a cause.²⁴⁶⁵ So, too, even in regard to faith itself, I say that he²⁴⁶⁶ seeks to obtain it²⁴⁶⁷ without cause from man, who is otherwise accustomed to believe in God from the idea he gets of Him from the testimony of His works:²⁴⁶⁸ (without cause, I repeat,) because he has provided no such proof as that whereby man has acquired the knowledge of God. For although most persons believe in Him, they do not believe at once by unaided reason,²⁴⁶⁹ without having some token of Deity in works worthy of God. And so upon this ground of inactivity and lack of works he²⁴⁷⁰ is guilty both of impudence and malignity: of impudence, in aspiring after a belief



2461 The word *cause* throughout this chapter is used in the popular, inaccurate sense, which almost confounds it with *effect*, the “*causa cognoscendi*,” as distinguished from the “*causa essendi*,” the strict *cause*.

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2463 The word “*res*” is throughout this argument used strictly by Tertullian; it refers to “*the thing*” made by God—that product of His creative energy which affords to us evidence of His existence. We have translated it “*proof*” for want of a better word.

2464 The “*tanquam sit*,” in its subjunctive form, seems to refer to the concession indicated at the outset of the chapter.

2465 *Omnino sine causa*.

2466 *Illum*, i.e., Marcion's god.

2467 *Captare*.

2468 *Deum ex operum auctoritate formatum*.

2469 *Non statim ratione*, on *a priori* grounds.

2470 i.e., Marcion's god.

which is not due to him, and for which he has provided no foundation;²⁴⁷¹ of malignity, in having brought many persons under the charge of unbelief by furnishing to them no groundwork for their faith. _____

2471 Compare [Rom. i. 20](#), a passage which is quite subversive of Marcion's theory.

Chapter XIII.—The Marcionites Depreciate the Creation, Which, However, is a Worthy Witness of God. This Worthiness Illustrated by References to the Heathen Philosophers, Who Were Apt to Invest the Several Parts of Creation with Divine Attributes.

While we are expelling from this rank (of Deity) a god who has no evidence to show for himself which is so proper and God-worthy as the testimony of the Creator, Marcion's most shameless followers with haughty impertinence fall upon the Creator's works to destroy them. To be sure, say they, the world is a grand work, worthy of a God.²⁴⁷² Then is the Creator not at all a God? By all means He is God.²⁴⁷³ Therefore²⁴⁷⁴ the world is not unworthy of God, for God has made nothing unworthy of Himself; although it was for man, and not for Himself, that He made the world, (and) although every work is less than its maker. And yet, if to have been the author of our creation, such as it is, be unworthy of God, how much more unworthy of Him is it to have created absolutely nothing at all!—not even a production which, although unworthy, might yet have encouraged the hope of some better attempt. To say somewhat, then, concerning the alleged²⁴⁷⁵ unworthiness of this world's fabric, to which among the Greeks also is assigned a name of ornament and grace,²⁴⁷⁶ not of sordidness, those very professors of wisdom,²⁴⁷⁷ from whose genius every heresy derives its spirit,²⁴⁷⁸ called the said unworthy elements divine; as Thales did water, Heraclitus fire, Anaximenes air, Anaximander all the heavenly bodies, Strato the sky and earth, Zeno the air and ether, and Plato the stars, which he calls a fiery kind of gods; whilst concerning the world, when they considered indeed its magnitude, and strength, and power, and honour, and glory,—the abundance, too, the regularity, and law of those individual elements which contribute to the production, the nourishment, the ripening, and the reproduction of all things,—the majority of the philosophers hesitated²⁴⁷⁹ to assign a beginning and an end to the said world, lest its constituent elements,²⁴⁸⁰ great as they undoubtedly are, should fail to be regarded as divine,²⁴⁸¹ which are objects of worship with the Persian magi, the Egyptian

2472 This is an ironical concession from the Marcionite side.

2473 Another concession.

2474 Tertullian's rejoinder.

2475 De isto.

2476 They called it κόσμος.

2477 By *sapientiae professores* he means the heathen philosophers; see *De Præscript. Hæret.* c. 7.

2478 In his book *adv. Hermogenem*, c. 8, Tertullian calls the philosophers "hæreticorum patriarchæ."

2479 Formidaverint.

2480 Substantiæ.

2481 Dei.

hierophants, and the Indian gymnosophists. The very superstition of the crowd, inspired by the common idolatry, when ashamed of the names and fables of their ancient dead borne by their idols, has recourse to the interpretation of natural objects, and so with much ingenuity cloaks its own disgrace, figuratively reducing Jupiter to a heated substance, and Juno to an aerial one (according to the literal sense of the Greek words);²⁴⁸² Vesta, in like manner, to fire, and the Muses to waters, and the Great Mother²⁴⁸³ to the earth, mowed as to its crops, ploughed up with lusty arms, and watered with baths.²⁴⁸⁴ Thus Osiris also, whenever he is buried, and looked for to come to life again, and with joy recovered, is an emblem of the regularity wherewith the fruits of the ground return, and the elements recover life, and the year comes round; as also the lions of Mithras²⁴⁸⁵ are philosophical sacraments of arid and scorched nature. It is, indeed, enough for me that natural elements, foremost in site and state, should have been more readily regarded as divine than as unworthy of God. I will, however, come down to²⁴⁸⁶ humbler objects. A single floweret from the hedgerow, I say not from the meadows; a single little shellfish from any sea, I say not from the Red Sea; a single stray wing of a moorfowl, I say nothing of the peacock,—will, I presume, prove to you that the Creator was but a sorry²⁴⁸⁷ artificer!



2482 The Greek name of Jupiter, Ζεύς, is here derived from ζέω, *ferveo*, *I glow*. Juno's name, Ἥρα, Tertullian connects with ἀήρ, the air; παρὰ τὸ ἀήρ καθ' ὑπέρθειν Ἥρα. These names of the two great deities suggest a connection with fire and air.

2483 i.e., Cybele.

2484 The earth's irrigations, and the washings of the image of Cybele every year in the river Almo by her priests, are here confusedly alluded to. For references to the pagan custom, see White and Riddle's large *Lat. Dict. s. v. Almo*.

2485 Mithras, the Persian sun-god, was symbolized by the image of a lion. The sun entering the zodiacal sign *Leo* amidst summer heat may be glanced at.

2486 Deficiam ad.

2487 Sordidum. [Well and nobly said.]

Chapter XIV.—All Portions of Creation Attest the Excellence of the Creator, Whom Marcion Vilifies. His Inconsistency Herein Exposed. Marcion's Own God Did Not Hesitate to Use the Creator's Works in Instituting His Own Religion.

Now, when you make merry with those minuter animals, which their glorious Maker has purposely endued with a profusion of instincts and resources,²⁴⁸⁸—thereby teaching us that greatness has its proofs in lowliness, just as (according to the apostle) there is power even in infirmity²⁴⁸⁹—imitate, if you can, the cells of the bee, the hills of the ant, the webs of the spider, and the threads of the silkworm; endure, too, if you know how, those very creatures²⁴⁹⁰ which infest your couch and house, the poisonous ejections of the blister-beetle,²⁴⁹¹ the spikes of the fly, and the gnat's sheath and sting. What of the greater animals, when the small ones so affect you with pleasure or pain, that you cannot even in their case despise their Creator? Finally, take a circuit round your own self; survey man within and without. Even this handiwork of our God will be pleasing to you, inasmuch as your own lord, that better god, loved it so well,²⁴⁹² and for your sake was at the pains²⁴⁹³ of descending from the third heaven to these poverty-stricken²⁴⁹⁴ elements, and for the same reason was actually crucified in this sorry²⁴⁹⁵ apartment of the Creator. Indeed, up to the present time, he has not disdained the water which the Creator made wherewith he washes his people; nor the oil with which he anoints them; nor that union of honey and milk wherewithal he gives them the nourishment²⁴⁹⁶ of children; nor the bread by which he represents his own proper body, thus requiring in his very sacraments the “beggarly²⁴⁹⁷ elements” of the Creator. You, however, are a disciple above his master, and a servant above his lord; you have a higher reach of discernment than his; you destroy what he requires. I wish to examine whether you are at least honest in this, so as to have no longing for those things which you destroy. You are an enemy to the sky, and yet you are glad to catch its freshness in your houses. You disparage the earth, although the elemental parent²⁴⁹⁸ of your own flesh, as if

2488 De industria ingeniis aut viribus ampliavit.

2489 2 Cor. xii. 5.

2490 Tertullian, it should be remembered, lived in *Africa*.

2491 Cantharidis.

2492 Adamavit.

2493 Laboravit.

2494 Paupertina. This and all such passages are, of course, in imitation of Marcion's contemptuous view of the Creator's work.

2495 Cellula.

2496 Infantat.

2497 Mendicitatibus.

2498 Matricem.

it were your undoubted enemy, and yet you extract from it all its fatness²⁴⁹⁹ for your food. The sea, too, you reprobate, but are continually using its produce, which you account the more sacred diet.²⁵⁰⁰ If I should offer you a rose, you will not disdain its Maker. You hypocrite, however much of abstinence you use to show yourself a Marcionite, that is, a repudiator of your Maker (for if the world displeased you, such abstinence ought to have been affected by you as a martyrdom), you will have to associate yourself with²⁵⁰¹ the Creator's material production, into what element soever you shall be dissolved. How hard is this obstinacy of yours! You vilify the things in which you both live and die.

2499 Medullas.

2500 [The use of fish for fasting-days has no better warrant than Marcion's example.]

2501 Uteris.

Chapter XV.—The Lateness of the Revelation of Marcion's God. The Question of the Place Occupied by the Rival Deities. Instead of Two Gods, Marcion Really (Although, as It Would Seem, Unconsciously) Had Nine Gods in His System.

After all, or, if you like,²⁵⁰² before all, since you have said that he has a creation²⁵⁰³ of his own, and his own world, and his own sky; we shall see,²⁵⁰⁴ indeed, about that third heaven, when we come to discuss even your own apostle.²⁵⁰⁵ Meanwhile, whatever is the (created) substance, it ought at any rate to have made its appearance in company with its own god. But now, how happens it that the Lord has been revealed since the twelfth year of Tiberius Cæsar, while no creation of His at all has been discovered up to the fifteenth of the Emperor Severus;²⁵⁰⁶ although, as being more excellent than the paltry works²⁵⁰⁷ of the Creator, it should certainly have ceased to conceal itself, when its lord and author no longer lies hid? I ask, therefore,²⁵⁰⁸ if it was unable to manifest itself in this world, how did its Lord appear in this world? If this world received its Lord, why was it not able to receive the created substance, unless perchance it was greater than its Lord? But now there arises a question about place, having reference both to the world above and to the God thereof. For, behold, if he²⁵⁰⁹ has his own world beneath him, above the Creator, he has certainly fixed it in a position, the space of which was empty between his own feet and the Creator's head. Therefore God both Himself occupied local space, and caused the world to occupy local space; and this local space, too, will be greater than God and the world together. For in no case is that which contains not greater than that which is contained. And indeed we must look well to it that no small patches²⁵¹⁰ be left here and there vacant, in which some third god also may be able with a world of his own to foist himself in.²⁵¹¹ Now, begin to reckon



2502 Vel.

2503 Conditionem.

2504 *Adv. Marcionem*, v. 12.

2505 For Marcion's exclusive use, and consequent abuse, of *St. Paul*, see Neander's *Antignostikus* (Bohn), vol. ii. pp. 491, 505, 506.

2506 [This date not merely settles the time of our author's work against Marcion, but supplies us with evidence that his total lapse must have been very late in life. For the five books, written at intervals and marked by progressive tokens of his spiritual decline, are as a whole, only slightly offensive to Orthodoxy. This should be borne in mind.]

2507 Frivolis. Again in reference to Marcion undervaluing the creation as the work of the Demiurge.

2508 Et ideo.

2509 In this and the following sentences, the reader will observe the distinction which is drawn between the Supreme and good God of Marcion and his "Creator," or Demiurge.

2510 Subsiciva.

2511 Stipare se.

up your gods. There will be local space for a god, not only as being greater than God, but as being also unbegotten and unmade, and therefore eternal, and equal to God, in which God has ever been. Then, inasmuch as He too has fabricated²⁵¹² a world out of some underlying material which is unbegotten, and unmade, and contemporaneous with God, just as Marcion holds of the Creator, you reduce this likewise to the dignity of that local space which has enclosed two gods, both God and matter. For matter also is a god according to the rule of Deity, being (to be sure) unbegotten, and unmade, and eternal. If, however, it was out of nothing that he made his world, this also (our heretic) will be obliged to predicate²⁵¹³ of the Creator, to whom he subordinates²⁵¹⁴ matter in the substance of the world. But it will be only right that he²⁵¹⁵ too should have made his world out of matter, because the same process occurred to him as God which lay before the Creator as equally God. And thus you may, if you please, reckon up so far,²⁵¹⁶ three gods as Marcion's,—the Maker, local space, and matter. Furthermore,²⁵¹⁷ he in like manner makes the Creator a god in local space, which is itself to be appraised on a precisely identical scale of dignity; and to Him as its lord he subordinates matter, which is notwithstanding unbegotten, and unmade, and by reason hereof eternal. With this matter he further associates evil, an unbegotten principle with an unbegotten object, an unmade with an unmade, and an eternal with an eternal; so here he makes a fourth God. Accordingly you have three substances of Deity in the higher instances, and in the lower ones four. When to these are added their Christs—the one which appeared in the time of Tiberius, the other which is promised by the Creator—Marcion suffers a manifest wrong from those persons who assume that he holds two gods, whereas he implies²⁵¹⁸ no less than nine,²⁵¹⁹ though he knows it not.

2512 Molitus est.

2513 Sentire.

2514 Subicit.

2515 The Supreme and good God. Tertullian here gives it as one of Marcion's tenets, that the Demiurge created the World out of pre-existent matter.

2516 Interim.

2517 Proinde et.

2518 Assignet.

2519 Namely, (1) the supreme and good God; (2) His Christ; (3) the *space* in which He dwells; (4) the *matter* of His creation; (5) the Demiurge (or Marcion's "Creator"); (6) his promised Christ; (7) the *space* which contains him; (8) this world, his creation; (9) evil, inherent in it.

Chapter XVI.—Marcion Assumes the Existence of Two Gods from the Antithesis Between Things Visible and Things Invisible. This Antithetical Principle in Fact Characteristic of the Works of the Creator, the One God—Maker of All Things Visible and Invisible.

Since, then, that other world does not appear, nor its god either, the only resource left²⁵²⁰ to them is to divide things into the two classes of visible and invisible, with two gods for their authors, and so to claim²⁵²¹ the invisible for their own, (the supreme) God. But who, except an heretical spirit, could ever bring his mind to believe that the invisible part of creation belongs to him who had previously displayed no visible thing, rather than to Him who, by His operation on the visible world, produced a belief in the invisible also, since it is far more reasonable to give one's assent after some samples (of a work) than after none? We shall see to what author even (your favourite) apostle attributes²⁵²² the invisible creation, when we come to examine him. At present (we withhold his testimony), for²⁵²³ we are for the most part engaged in preparing the way, by means of common sense and fair arguments, for a belief in the future support of the Scriptures also. We affirm, then, that this diversity of things visible and invisible must on this ground be attributed to the Creator, even because the whole of His work consists of diversities—of things corporeal and incorporeal; of animate and inanimate; of vocal and mute of moveable and stationary; of productive and sterile; of arid and moist; of hot and cold. Man, too, is himself similarly tempered with diversity, both in his body and in his sensation. Some of his members are strong, others weak; some comely, others uncomely; some twofold, others unique; some like, others unlike. In like manner there is diversity also in his sensation: now joy, then anxiety; now love, then hatred; now anger, then calmness. Since this is the case, inasmuch as the whole of this creation of ours has been fashioned²⁵²⁴ with a reciprocal rivalry amongst its several parts, the invisible ones are due to the visible, and not to be ascribed to any other author than Him to whom their counterparts are imputed, marking as they do diversity in the Creator Himself, who orders what He forbade, and forbids what He ordered; who also strikes and heals. Why do they take Him to be uniform in one class of things alone, as the Creator of visible things, and only them; whereas He ought to be believed to have created both the visible and the invisible, in just the same way as life and death, or as evil things and peace?²⁵²⁵ And verily, if the in-



2520 Consequens est ut.

2521 Defendant.

2522 Col. i. 16.

2523 Nunc enim. The elliptical *vūv γὰρ* of Greek argumentation.

2524 Modulata.

2525 "I make peace, and create evil," Isa. xlv. 7.

visible creatures are greater than the visible, which are in their own sphere great, so also is it fitting that the greater should be His to whom the great belong; because neither the great, nor indeed the greater, can be suitable property for one who seems to possess not even the smallest things.

Chapter XVII.—Not Enough, as the Marcionites Pretend, that the Supreme God Should Rescue Man; He Must Also Have Created Him. The Existence of God Proved by His Creation, a Prior Consideration to His Character.

Pressed by these arguments, they exclaim: One work is sufficient for our god; he has delivered man by his supreme and most excellent goodness, which is preferable to (the creation of) all the locusts.²⁵²⁶ What superior god is this, of whom it has not been possible to find any work so great as *the man* of the lesser god! Now without doubt the first thing you have to do is to prove that he exists, after the same manner that the existence of God must ordinarily be proved—by his works; and only after that by his good deeds. For the first question is, Whether he exists? and then, What is his character? The former is to be tested²⁵²⁷ by his works, the other by the beneficence of them. It does not simply follow that he exists, because he is said to have wrought deliverance for man; but only after it shall have been settled that he exists, will there be room for saying that he has effected this liberation. And even this point also must have its own evidence, because it may be quite possible both that he has existence, and yet has not wrought the alleged deliverance. Now in that section of our work which concerned the question of the unknown god, two points were made clear enough—both that he had created nothing: and that he ought to have been a creator, in order to be known by his works; because, if he had existed, he ought to have been known, and that too from the beginning of things; for it was not fit that God should have lain hid. It will be necessary that I should revert to the very trunk of that question of the unknown god, that I may strike off into some of its other branches also. For it will be first of all proper to inquire, Why he, who afterwards brought himself into notice, did so—so late, and not at the very first? From creatures, with which as God he was indeed so closely connected (and the closer this connection was,²⁵²⁸ the greater was his goodness), he ought never to have been hidden. For it cannot be pretended that there was not either any means of arriving at the knowledge of God, or a good reason for it, when from the beginning man was in the world, for whom the deliverance is now come; as was also that malevolence of the Creator, in opposition to which the good God has wrought the deliverance. He was therefore either ignorant of the good reason for and means of his own necessary manifestation, or doubted them; or else was either unable or unwilling to encounter them. All these alternatives are

2526 To depreciate the Creator's work the more, Marcion (and Valentinus too) used to attribute to Him the formation of all the lower creatures—worms, locusts, etc.—reserving the mightier things to the good and supreme God. See St. Jerome's *Proem. in Epist. ad Philem.* [See, Stier, *Words of Jesus*, Vol. vi. p. 81.]

2527 Dinoscetur.

2528 Quo necessarior.

unworthy of God, especially the supreme and best. This topic,²⁵²⁹ however, we shall afterwards²⁵³⁰ more fully treat, with a condemnation of the tardy manifestation; we at present simply point it out.



2529 Locum.

2530 In chap. xxii.

Chapter XVIII.—Notwithstanding Their Conceits, the God of the Marcionites Fails in the Vouchers Both of Created Evidence and of Adequate Revelation.

Well, then,²⁵³¹ he has now advanced into notice, just when he willed, when he could, when the destined hour arrived. For perhaps he was hindered hitherto by his leading star,²⁵³² or some weird malignants, or Saturn in quadrature,²⁵³³ or Mars at the trine.²⁵³⁴ The Marcionites are very strongly addicted to astrology; nor do they blush to get their livelihood by help of the very stars which were made by the Creator (whom they depreciate). We must here also treat of the quality²⁵³⁵ of the (new) revelation; whether Marcion's supreme god has become known *in a way worthy of him*, so as to secure the proof of his existence: and *in the way of truth*, so that he may be believed to be the very being who had been already proved to have been revealed in a manner worthy of his character. For things which are worthy of God will prove the existence of God. We maintain²⁵³⁶ that God must first be known²⁵³⁷ from *nature*, and afterwards authenticated²⁵³⁸ by *instruction*: from nature by His works; by instruction,²⁵³⁹ through His revealed announcements.²⁵⁴⁰ Now, in a case where nature is excluded, no natural means (of knowledge) are furnished. He ought, therefore, to have carefully supplied²⁵⁴¹ a revelation of himself, even by announcements, especially as he had to be revealed in opposition to One who, after so many and so great works, both of creation and revealed announcement, had with difficulty succeeded in satisfying²⁵⁴² men's faith. In what manner, therefore, has the revelation been made? If by man's conjectural guesses, do not say that God can possibly become known in any other way than by Himself, and appeal not only to the standard of the Creator, but to the conditions both of God's greatness and man's littleness; so that man seem not by any possibility to be

2531 Age.

2532 Anabibazon. The ἀναβιβάζων was the most critical point in the ecliptic, in the old astrology, for the calculation of stellar influences.

2533 Quadratus.

2534 Trigonus. Saturn and Mars were supposed to be malignant planets. See Smith, *Greek and Rom. Ant.* p. 144, c. 2.

2535 Qualitate.

2536 Definimus.

2537 Cognoscendum.

2538 Recognoscendum.

2539 Doctrina.

2540 Ex prædicationibus.

2541 Operari.

2542 Vix impleverat.

greater than God, by having somehow drawn Him out into public recognition, when He was Himself unwilling to become known by His own energies, although man's littleness has been able, according to experiments all over the world, more easily to fashion for itself gods, than to follow the true God whom men now understand by nature. As for the rest,²⁵⁴³ if man shall be thus able to devise a god,—as Romulus did Consus, and Tadius Cloacina, and Hostilius Fear, and Metellus Alburnus, and a certain authority²⁵⁴⁴ some time since Antinous,—the same accomplishment may be allowed to others. As for us, we have found our pilot in Marcion, although not a king nor an emperor.

2543 Alioquin.

2544 He means the Emperor Hadrian; comp. *Apolog.* c. 13.

Chapter XIX.—Jesus Christ, the Revealer of the Creator, Could Not Be the Same as Marcion's God, Who Was Only Made Known by the Heretic Some CXV. Years After Christ, and That, Too, on a Principle Utterly Unsuitable to the Teaching of Jesus Christ, I.e., the Opposition Between the Law and the Gospels.

Well, but our god, say the Marcionites, although he did not manifest himself from the beginning and by means of the creation, has yet revealed himself in Christ Jesus. A book will be devoted²⁵⁴⁵ to Christ, treating of His entire state; for it is desirable that these subject-matters should be distinguished one from another, in order that they may receive a fuller and more methodical treatment. Meanwhile it will be sufficient if, at this stage of the question, I show—and that but briefly—that Christ Jesus is the revealer²⁵⁴⁶ of none other god but the Creator. In the fifteenth year of Tiberius,²⁵⁴⁷ Christ Jesus vouchsafed to come down from heaven, as the spirit of saving health.²⁵⁴⁸ I cared not to inquire, indeed, in what particular year of the elder Antoninus. He who had so gracious a purpose did rather, like a pestilential sirocco,²⁵⁴⁹ exhale this health or salvation, which Marcion teaches from his Pontus. Of this teacher there is no doubt that he is a heretic of the Antonine period, impious under the pious. Now, from Tiberius to Antoninus Pius, there are about 115 years and 6-1/2 months. Just such an interval do they place between Christ and Marcion. Inasmuch, then, as Marcion, as we have shown, first introduced this god to notice in the time of Antoninus, the matter becomes at once clear, if you are a shrewd observer. The dates already decide the case, that he who came to light for the first time²⁵⁵⁰ in the reign of Antoninus, did not appear in that of Tiberius; in other words, that the God of the Antonine period was not the God of the Tiberian; and consequently, that he whom Marcion has plainly preached for the first time, was not revealed by Christ (who announced His revelation as early as the reign of Tiberius). Now, to prove clearly what remains of the argument, I shall draw materials from my very adversaries. Marcion's special and principal work is the separation of the law and the gospel; and his disciples will not deny that in this point they have their very best pretext for initiating and confirming themselves in his heresy. These are Marcion's *Antitheses*, or contradictory propositions, which aim at committing the gospel to a variance with the law, in order that from the diversity of the two documents which contain them,²⁵⁵¹ they may contend for a

2545 The third of these books against Marcion.

2546 Circumlatorem.

2547 The author says this, not as his own, but as Marcion's opinion; as is clear from his own words in his fourth book against Marcion, c. 7, (Pamelius).

2548 Spiritus salutaris.

2549 Aura canicularis.

2550 Primum processit.

2551 Utriusque instrumenti.

diversity of gods also. Since, therefore, it is this very opposition between the law and the gospel which has suggested that the God of the gospel is different from the God of the law, it is clear that, before the said separation, that god could not have been known who became known²⁵⁵² from the argument of the separation itself. He therefore could not have been revealed by Christ, who came before the separation, but must have been devised by Marcion, the author of the breach of peace between the gospel and the law. Now this peace, which had remained unhurt and unshaken from Christ's appearance to the time of Marcion's audacious doctrine, was no doubt maintained by that way of thinking, which firmly held that the God of both law and gospel was none other than the Creator, against whom after so long a time a separation has been introduced by the heretic of Pontus.

2552 Innotuit.

Chapter XX.—Marcion, Justifying His Antithesis Between the Law and the Gospel by the Contention of St. Paul with St. Peter, Shown to Have Mistaken St. Paul's Position and Argument. Marcion's Doctrine Confuted Out of St. Paul's Teaching, Which Agrees Wholly with the Creator's Decrees.

This most patent conclusion requires to be defended by us against the clamours of the opposite side. For they allege that Marcion did not so much innovate on the rule (of faith) by his separation of the law and the gospel, as restore it after it had been previously adulterated. O Christ,²⁵⁵³ most enduring Lord, who didst bear so many years with this interference with Thy revelation, until Marcion forsooth came to Thy rescue! Now they adduce the case of Peter himself, and the others, who were pillars of the apostolate, as having been blamed by Paul for not walking uprightly, according to the truth of the gospel—that very Paul indeed, who, being yet in the mere rudiments of grace, and trembling, in short, lest he should have run or were still running in vain, then for the first time held intercourse with those who were apostles before himself. Therefore because, in the eagerness of his zeal against Judaism as a neophyte, he thought that there was something to be blamed in their conduct—even the promiscuousness of their conversation²⁵⁵⁴—but afterwards was himself to become in his practice all things to all men, that he might gain all,—to the Jews, as a Jew, and to them that were under the law, as under the law,—you would have his censure, which was merely directed against conduct destined to become acceptable even to their accuser, suspected of prevarication against God on a point of public doctrine.²⁵⁵⁵ Touching their public doctrine, however, they had, as we have already said, joined hands in perfect concord, and had agreed also in the division of their labour in their fellowship of the gospel, as they had indeed in all other respects:²⁵⁵⁶ “Whether it were I or they, so we preach.”²⁵⁵⁷ When, again, he mentioned “certain false brethren as having crept in unawares,” who wished to remove the Galatians into another gospel,²⁵⁵⁸ he himself shows that that adulteration of the gospel was not meant to transfer them to the faith of another god and christ, but rather to perpetuate the teaching of the law; because he blames them for maintaining circumcision, and observing times, and days, and months, and years, according to those Jewish ceremonies which they ought to have known were now abrogated, according to the new dispensation purposed by the Creator Himself, who of old foretold this very thing by His prophets. Thus He says by Isaiah:

2553 Tertullian's indignant reply.

2554 *Passivum scilicet convictum.*

2555 *Prædicationis.* [Largely *ad hominem*, this argument.]

2556 *Et alibi.*

2557 *1 Cor. xv. 11.*

2558 See *Gal. i. 6, 7, and ii. 4.*

Old things have passed away. “Behold, I will do a new thing.”²⁵⁵⁹ And in another passage: “I will make a new covenant, not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, when I brought them out of the land of Egypt.”²⁵⁶⁰ In like manner by Jeremiah: Make to yourselves a new covenant, “circumcise yourselves to the Lord, and take away the foreskins of your heart.”²⁵⁶¹ It is this circumcision, therefore, and this renewal, which the apostle insisted on, when he forbade those ancient ceremonies concerning which their very founder announced that they were one day to cease; thus by Hosea: “I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast-days, her new moons, and her Sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.”²⁵⁶² So likewise by Isaiah: “The new moons, and Sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; your holy days, and fasts, and feast-days, my soul hateth.”²⁵⁶³ Now, if even the Creator had so long before discarded all these things, and the apostle was now proclaiming them to be worthy of renunciation, the very agreement of the apostle’s meaning with the decrees of the Creator proves that none other God was preached by the apostle than He whose purposes he now wished to have recognised, branding as false both apostles and brethren, for the express reason that they were pushing back the gospel of Christ the Creator from the new condition which the Creator had foretold, to the old one which He had discarded.



2559 [Isa. xliii. 19.](#)

2560 This quotation, however, is from [Jer. xxxi. 32.](#)

2561 [Jer. iv. 4.](#)

2562 [Hos. ii. 11.](#)

2563 Slightly altered from [Isa. i. 13, 14.](#)

Chapter XXI.—St. Paul Preached No New God, When He Announced the Repeal of Some of God's Ancient Ordinances. Never Any Hesitation About Belief in the Creator, as the God Whom Christ Revealed, Until Marcion's Heresy.

Now if it was with the view of preaching a new god that he was eager to abrogate the law of the old God, how is it that he prescribes no rule about²⁵⁶⁴ the new god, but solely about the old law, if it be not because faith in the Creator²⁵⁶⁵ was still to continue, and His law alone was to come to an end?²⁵⁶⁶—just as the Psalmist had declared: “Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth stand up, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His Anointed.”²⁵⁶⁷ And, indeed, if another god were preached by Paul, there could be no doubt about the law, whether it were to be kept or not, because of course it would not belong to the new lord, the enemy²⁵⁶⁸ of the law. The very newness and difference of the god would take away not only all question about the old and alien law, but even all mention of it. But the whole question, as it then stood, was this, that although the God of the law was the same as was preached in Christ, yet there was a disparagement²⁵⁶⁹ of His law. Permanent still, therefore, stood faith in the Creator and in His Christ; manner of life and discipline alone fluctuated.²⁵⁷⁰ Some disputed about eating idol sacrifices, others about the veiled dress of women, others again about marriage and divorce, and some even about the hope of the resurrection; but about God no one disputed. Now, if this question also had entered into dispute, surely it would be found in the apostle, and that too as a great and vital point. No doubt, after the time of the apostles, the truth respecting the belief of God suffered corruption, but it is equally certain that during the life of the apostles their teaching on this great article did not suffer at all; so that no other teaching will have the right of being received as apostolic than that which is at the present day proclaimed in the churches of apostolic foundation. You will, however, find no church of apostolic origin²⁵⁷¹ but such as reposes its Christian faith in the Creator.²⁵⁷² But if the churches shall prove to have been corrupt from the beginning, where shall the pure ones be found? Will it be amongst

2564 Nihil præscribit de.

2565 i.e., “the old God,” as he has just called Him.

2566 Concessare debebat.

2567 Ps. ii. 3, 1, 2.

2568 Æmulum.

2569 Derogaretur.

2570 Nutabat.

2571 Census.

2572 In Creatore christianizet.

the adversaries of the Creator? Show us, then, one of your churches, tracing its descent from an apostle, and you will have gained the day.²⁵⁷³ Forasmuch then as it is on all accounts evident that there was from Christ down to Marcion's time no other God in the rule of sacred truth²⁵⁷⁴ than the Creator, the proof of our argument is sufficiently established, in which we have shown that the god of our heretic first became known by his separation of the gospel and the law. Our previous position²⁵⁷⁵ is accordingly made good, that no god is to be believed whom any man has devised out of his own conceits; except indeed the man be a prophet,²⁵⁷⁶ and then his own conceits would not be concerned in the matter. If Marcion, however, shall be able to lay claim to this inspired character, it will be necessary for it to be shown. There must be no doubt or paltering.²⁵⁷⁷ For all heresy is thrust out by this wedge of the truth, that Christ is proved to be the revealer of no God else but the Creator.²⁵⁷⁸

2573 Obduxeris. For this sense of the word, see *Apol.* 1. *sub init.* "sed obducimur," etc.

2574 Sacramenti.

2575 Definito.

2576 That is, "inspired."

2577 Nihil retractare oportebat.

2578 [Kaye, p. 274.]

Chapter XXII.—God's Attribute of Goodness Considered as Natural; The God of Marcion Found Wanting Herein. It Came Not to Man's Rescue When First Wanted.

But how shall (this) Antichrist be fully overthrown unless we relax our defence by mere prescription,²⁵⁷⁹ and give ourselves scope for rebutting all his other attacks? Let us therefore next take the very person of God Himself, or rather His shadow or phantom,²⁵⁸⁰ as we have it in Christ, and let Him be examined by that condition which makes Him superior to the Creator. And undoubtedly there will come to hand unmistakable rules for examining God's goodness. My first point, however, is to discover and apprehend the attribute, and then to draw it out into rules. Now, when I survey the subject in its aspects of time, I nowhere descry it²⁵⁸¹ from the beginning of material existences, or at the commencement of those causes, with which it ought to have been found, proceeding thence to do²⁵⁸² whatever had to be done. For there was death already, and sin the sting of death, and that malignity too of the Creator, against which the goodness of the other god should have been ready to bring relief; falling in with this as the primary rule of the divine goodness (if it were to prove itself a natural *agency*), at once coming as a succour when the cause for it began. For in God all things should be natural and inbred, just like His own condition indeed, in order that they may be eternal, and so not be accounted casual²⁵⁸³ and extraneous, and thereby temporary and wanting in eternity. In God, therefore, goodness is required to be both perpetual and unbroken,²⁵⁸⁴ such as, being stored up and kept ready in the treasures of His natural properties, might precede its own causes and material developments; and if thus preceding, might *underlie*²⁵⁸⁵ every first material cause, instead of looking at it from a distance,²⁵⁸⁶ and standing aloof from it.²⁵⁸⁷ In short, here too I must inquire, Why his²⁵⁸⁸ goodness did not operate from the beginning? no less pointedly than when we inquired concerning

2579 In his book, *De Præscrip. Hæret.*, [cap. xv.] Tertullian had enjoined that heretics ought not to be argued with, but to be met with the authoritative rule of the faith. He here proposes to forego that course.

2580 Marcion's *Docetic* doctrine of Christ as having only *appeared* in human shape, without an actual incarnation, is indignantly confuted by Tertullian in his *De Carne Christi*, c.v.

2581 That is, the principle in question—the *bonitas Dei*.

2582 *Exinde agens*.

2583 *Obvenientia*.

2584 *Jugis*.

2585 *Susciperet*.

2586 *Despiceret*.

2587 *Destitueret*.

2588 That is, Marcion's god's.

himself, Why he was not revealed from the very first? Why, then, did it not? since he had to be revealed by his goodness if he had any existence. That God should at all fail in power must not be thought, much less that He should not discharge all His natural functions; for if these were restrained from running their course, they would cease to be natural. Moreover, the nature of God Himself knows nothing of inactivity. Hence (His goodness) is reckoned as having a beginning,²⁵⁸⁹ if it acts. It will thus be evident that He had no unwillingness to exercise His goodness at any time on account of His nature. Indeed, it is impossible that He should be unwilling because of His nature, since that so directs itself that it would no longer exist if it ceased to act. In Marcion's god, however, goodness ceased from operation at some time or other. A goodness, therefore, which could thus at any time have ceased its action was not natural, because with natural properties such cessation is incompatible. And if it shall not prove to be natural, it must no longer be believed to be eternal nor competent to Deity; because it cannot be eternal so long as, failing to be natural, it neither provides from the past nor guarantees for the future any means of perpetuating itself. Now as a fact it existed not from the beginning, and, doubtless, will not endure to the end. For it is possible for it to fail in existence some future²⁵⁹⁰ time or other, as it has failed in some past²⁵⁹¹ period. Forasmuch, then, as the goodness of Marcion's god failed in the beginning (for he did not from the first deliver man), this failure must have been the effect of will rather than of infirmity. Now a wilful suppression of goodness will be found to have a malignant end in view. For what malignity is so great as to be unwilling to do good when one can, or to thwart²⁵⁹² what is useful, or to permit injury? The whole description, therefore, of Marcion's Creator will have to be transferred²⁵⁹³ to his new god, who helped on the ruthless²⁵⁹⁴ proceedings of the former by the retardation of his own goodness. For whosoever has it in his power to prevent the happening of a thing, is accounted responsible for it if it should occur. Man is condemned to death for tasting the fruit of one poor tree,²⁵⁹⁵ and thence proceed sins with their penalties; and now all are perishing who yet never saw a single sod of Paradise. And all this your better god either is ignorant of, or else brooks. Is it that²⁵⁹⁶ he might on

2589 Censetur.

2590 Quandoque.

2591 Aliquando.

2592 Cruciare.

2593 Rescribetur.

2594 Sævitiās.

2595 Arbusculæ.

2596 Si ut?

this account be deemed the better, and the Creator be regarded as all that the worse? Even if this were his purpose he would be malicious enough, for both wishing to aggravate his rival's obloquy by permitting His (evil) works to be done, and by keeping the world harrassed by the wrong. What would you think of a physician who should encourage a disease by withholding the remedy, and prolong the danger by delaying his prescription, in order that his cure might be more costly and more renowned? Such must be the sentence to be pronounced against Marcion's god: tolerant of evil, encouraging wrong, wheedling about his grace, prevaricating in his goodness, which he did not exhibit simply on its own account, but which he must mean to exhibit purely, if he is good by nature and not by acquisition,²⁵⁹⁷ if he is supremely good in attribute²⁵⁹⁸ and not by discipline, if he is God from eternity and not from Tiberius, nay (to speak more truly), from Cerdon only and Marcion. As the case now stands,²⁵⁹⁹ however, such a god as we are considering would have been more fit for Tiberius, that the goodness of the Divine Being might be inaugurated in the world under his imperial sway!



2597 Accessione.

2598 Ingenio.

2599 Nunc. [Comp. chapter xv. *supra*, p. 282.]

Chapter XXIII.—God's Attribute of Goodness Considered as Rational. Marcion's God Defective Here Also; His Goodness Irrational and Misapplied.

Here is another rule for him. All the properties of God ought to be as rational as they are natural. I require reason in His goodness, because nothing else can properly be accounted good than that which is rationally good; much less can goodness itself be detected in any irrationality. More easily will an evil thing which has something rational belonging to it be accounted good, than that a good thing bereft of all reasonable quality should escape being regarded as evil. Now I deny that the goodness of Marcion's god is rational, on this account first, because it proceeded to the salvation of a human creature which was alien to him. I am aware of the plea which they will adduce, that that is rather²⁶⁰⁰ a primary and perfect goodness which is shed voluntarily and freely upon strangers without any obligation of friendship,²⁶⁰¹ on the principle that we are bidden to love even our enemies, such as are also on that very account strangers to us. Now, inasmuch as from the first he had no regard for man, a stranger to him from the first, he settled beforehand, by this neglect of his, that he had nothing to do with an alien creature. Besides, the rule of loving a stranger or enemy is preceded by the precept of your loving your neighbour as yourself; and this precept, although coming from the Creator's law, even you ought to receive, because, so far from being abrogated by Christ, it has rather been confirmed by Him. For you are bidden to love your enemy and the stranger, in order that you may love your neighbour the better. The requirement of the undue is an augmentation of the due benevolence. But the due precedes the undue, as the principal quality, and more worthy of the other, for its attendant and companion.²⁶⁰² Since, therefore, the first step in the reasonableness of the divine goodness is that it displays itself on its proper object²⁶⁰³ in righteousness, and only at its second stage on an alien object by a redundant righteousness over and above that of scribes and Pharisees, how comes it to pass that the second is attributed to him who fails in the first, not having man for his proper object, and who makes his goodness on this very account defective? Moreover, how could a defective benevolence, which had no proper object whereon to expend itself,

2600 Atquin.

2601 Familiaritatis.

2602 This is the sense of the passage as read by Oehler: "Antecedit autem debita indebitam, ut principalis, ut dignior ministra et comite sua, id est indebita." Fr. Junius, however, added the word "prior" which begins the next sentence to these words, making the last clause run thus: "ut dignior ministra, et comite sua, id est indebita, prior"—"as being more worthy of an attendant, and as being prior to its companion, that is, the undue benevolence." It is difficult to find any good use of the "prior" in the next sentence, "Prior igitur cum prima bonitatis ratio sit," etc., as Oehler and others point it.

2603 In rem suam.

overflow²⁶⁰⁴ on an alien one? Clear up the first step, and then vindicate the next. Nothing can be claimed as rational without order, much less can reason itself²⁶⁰⁵ dispense with order in any one. Suppose now *the divine* goodness begin at the second stage of its rational operation, that is to say, on the stranger, this second stage will not be consistent in rationality if it be impaired in any way else.²⁶⁰⁶ For only then will even the second stage of goodness, that which is displayed towards the stranger, be accounted rational, when it operates without wrong to him who has the first claim.²⁶⁰⁷ It is righteousness²⁶⁰⁸ which before everything else makes all goodness rational. It will thus be rational in its principal stage, when manifested on its proper object, if it be righteous. And thus, in like manner, it will be able to appear rational, when displayed towards the stranger, if it be not unrighteous. But what sort of goodness is that which is manifested in wrong, and *that* in behalf of an alien creature? For peradventure a benevolence, even when operating injuriously, might be deemed to some extent rational, if exerted for one of our own house and home.²⁶⁰⁹ By what rule, however, can an unjust benevolence, displayed on behalf of a stranger, to whom not even an honest one is legitimately due, be defended as a rational one? For what is more unrighteous, more unjust, more dishonest, than so to benefit an alien slave as to take him away from his master, claim him as the property of another, and suborn him against his master's life; and all this, to make the matter more iniquitous still whilst he is yet living in his master's house and on his master's garner, and still trembling beneath his stripes? Such a deliverer,²⁶¹⁰ I had almost said²⁶¹¹ kidnapper,²⁶¹² would even meet with condemnation in the world. Now, no other than this is the character of Marcion's god, swooping upon an alien world, snatching away man from his God,²⁶¹³ the son from his father, the pupil from his tutor, the servant from his master—to make him impious to his God, undutiful to his father, ungrateful to his tutor, worthless to his master. If, now, the rational benevolence makes man such, what sort of being prithe²⁶¹⁴ would the irrational make of him? None I should think more shameless than him who is baptized to his²⁶¹⁵ god in water which belongs to another, who stretches



2604 Redundavit.

2605 Ratio ipsa, i.e., rationality, or the character of reasonableness, which he is now vindicating.

2606 Alio modo destructus.

2607 Cujus est res.

2608 Justitia, *right* as opposed to the *wrong* (injuria) of the preceding sentence.

2609 Pro domestico, opposed to the *pro extraneo*, the alien or stranger of the preceding and succeeding context.

2610 Assertor.

2611 Nedum.

2612 Plagiator.

2613 i.e., the Creator.

2614 Oro te.

2615 Alii Deo. The strength of this phrase is remarkable by the side of the oft-repeated aliena.

out his hands²⁶¹⁶ to his god towards a heaven which is another's, who kneels to his god on ground which is another's, offers his thanksgivings to his god over bread which belongs to another,²⁶¹⁷ and distributes²⁶¹⁸ by way of alms and charity, for the sake of his god, gifts which belong to another God. Who, then, is that so good a god of theirs, that man through him becomes evil; so propitious, too, as to incense against man that other God who is, indeed, his own proper Lord?

2616 Therefore Christians used to lift their hands and arms towards heaven in prayer. Compare *The Apology*, chap. 30, (where the *manibus expansis* betokens the open hand, not merely as the heathen *tendens ad sidera palmas*). See also *De Orat.* c. 13, and other passages from different writers referred to in the "Tertullian" of the *Oxford Library of the Fathers*, p. 70. [See the figures in the Catacombs as represented by Parker, Marriott and others.]

2617 To the same effect Irenæus had said: "How will it be consistent in them to hold that the bread on which thanks are given is the body of their Lord, and that the cup is His blood, if they do not acknowledge that He is the Son of the Creator of the world, that is, the Word of God?" (Rigalt.) [The consecrated bread is still *bread*, in Patristic theology.]

2618 Operatur, a not unfrequent use of the word. Thus Prudentius (*Psychom.* 572) opposes *operatio* to *avaritia*.

Chapter XXIV.—The Goodness of Marcion's God Only Imperfectly Manifested; It Saves But Few, and the Souls Merely of These. Marcion's Contempt of the Body Absurd.

But as God is eternal and rational, so, I think, He is perfect in all things. "Be ye perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."²⁶¹⁹ Prove, then, that the goodness of your god also is a perfect one. That it is indeed *imperfect* has been already sufficiently shown, since it is found to be neither natural nor rational. The same conclusion, however, shall now be made clear²⁶²⁰ by another method; it is not simply²⁶²¹ imperfect, but actually²⁶²² feeble, weak, and exhausted, failing to embrace the full number²⁶²³ of its material objects, and not manifesting itself in them all. For all are not put into a state of salvation²⁶²⁴ by it; but the Creator's subjects, both Jew and Christian, are all excepted.²⁶²⁵ Now, when the greater part thus perish, how can that goodness be defended as a perfect one which is inoperative in most cases, is somewhat only in few, naught in many, succumbs to perdition, and is a partner with destruction?²⁶²⁶ And if so many shall miss salvation, it will not be with goodness, but with malignity, that the greater perfection will lie. For as it is the operation of goodness which brings salvation, so is it malevolence which thwarts it.²⁶²⁷ Since, however, this goodness) saves but few, and so rather leans to the alternative of not saving, it will show itself to greater perfection by not interposing help than by helping. Now, you will not be able to attribute goodness (to your god) in reference to the Creator, (if accompanied with) failure towards all. For whomsoever you call in to judge the question, it is as a dispenser of goodness, if so be such a title can be made out,²⁶²⁸ and not as a squanderer thereof, as you claim your god to be, that you must submit the divine character for determination. So long, then, as you prefer your god to the Creator on the simple ground of his goodness, and since he professes to have this attribute as solely and wholly his own, he ought not to have been wanting in it to any one. However, I do not now wish to prove that Marcion's god is imperfect

2619 [Matt. v. 48.](#)

2620 Traducetur.

2621 Nec jam.

2622 Immo.

2623 Minor numero.

2624 Non fiunt salvi. [Kaye, p. 347.]

2625 Pauciores.

2626 Partiarum exitii.

2627 Non facit salvos.

2628 Si forte (i.e., εἰ τύχοι εἴπερ ἄρα, with a touch of irony,— a frequent phrase in Tertullian.

in goodness because of the perdition of the greater number. I am content to illustrate this imperfection by the fact that even those whom he saves are found to possess but an imperfect salvation—that is, they are saved only so far as the soul is concerned,²⁶²⁹ but lost in their body, which, according to him, does not rise again. Now, whence comes this halving of salvation, if not from a failure of goodness? What could have been a better proof of a perfect goodness, than the recovery of the whole man to salvation? Totally damned by the Creator, he should have been totally restored by the most merciful god. I rather think that by Marcion's rule the body is baptized, is deprived of marriage,²⁶³⁰ is cruelly tortured in confession. But although sins are attributed to the body, yet they are preceded by the guilty concupiscence of the soul; nay, the first motion of sin must be ascribed to the soul, to which the flesh acts in the capacity of a servant. By and by, when freed from the soul, the flesh sins no more.²⁶³¹ So that in this matter goodness is unjust, and likewise imperfect, in that it leaves to destruction the more harmless substance, which sins rather by compliance than in will. Now, although Christ put not on the verity of the flesh, as your heresy is pleased to assume, He still vouchsafed to take upon Him the semblance thereof. Surely, therefore, some regard was due to it from Him, because of this His feigned assumption of it. Besides, what else is man than flesh, since no doubt it was the corporeal rather than the spiritual²⁶³² element from which the Author of man's nature gave him his designation?²⁶³³ "And the Lord God made man of the dust of the ground," not of spiritual essence; this afterwards came from the divine afflatus: "and man became a living soul." What, then, is man? Made, no doubt of it, of the dust; and God placed him in paradise, because He moulded him, not breathed him, into being—a fabric of flesh, not of spirit. Now, this being the case, with what face will you contend for the perfect character of that goodness which did not fail in some one particular only of man's deliverance, but in its general capacity? If that is a plenary grace and a substantial mercy which brings salvation to the soul alone, this were the better life which we now enjoy whole and entire; whereas to rise again but in part will be a chastisement, not a liberation. The proof of the perfect goodness is, that man, after his rescue, should be delivered from the domicile and power of the malignant deity unto the protection of the most good and merciful God. Poor dupe of Marcion, fever²⁶³⁴ is hard upon you; and your painful flesh



2629 Anima tenus. Comp. *De Præscr. Hær.* 33, where Marcion, as well as Apelles, Valentinus, and others, are charged with the Sadducean denial of the resurrection of the flesh, which is censured by St. Paul, *1 Cor. xv. 12.*

2630 Compare *De Præscr. Hær.* 33, where Marcion and Apelles are brought under St. Paul's reproach in *1 Tim. iv. 3.*

2631 Hactenus. [Kaye, p. 260.]

2632 Animalis (from *anima*, the vital principle, "the breath of life") is here opposed to corporalis.

2633 **הָאָדָם**, *homo*, from **הָאָרֶץ**, *humus*, the ground; see the Hebrew of *Gen. ii. 7.*

2634 Febricitas.

produces a crop of all sorts of briars and thorns. Nor is it only to the Creator's thunderbolts that you lie exposed, or to wars, and pestilences, and His other heavier strokes, but even to His creeping insects. In what respect do you suppose yourself liberated from His kingdom when His flies are still creeping upon your face? If your deliverance lies in the future, why not also in the present, that it may be perfectly wrought? Far different is our condition in the sight of Him who is the Author, the Judge, the injured²⁶³⁵ Head of our race! You display Him as a merely good God; but you are unable to prove that He is perfectly good, because you are not by Him perfectly delivered.

2635 Offensum, probably in respect of the Marcionite treatment of His attributes.

Chapter XXV.—God is Not a Being of Simple Goodness; Other Attributes Belong to Him. Marcion Shows Inconsistency in the Portraiture of His Simply Good and Emotionless God.

As touching this question of goodness, we have in these outlines of our argument shown it to be in no way compatible with Deity,—as being neither natural,²⁶³⁶ nor rational, nor perfect, but wrong,²⁶³⁷ and unjust, and unworthy of the very name of goodness,—because, as far as the congruity of the divine character is concerned, it cannot indeed be fitting that that Being should be regarded as God who is alleged to have *such* a goodness, and that not in a modified way, but simply and solely. For it is, furthermore, at this point quite open to discussion, whether God ought to be regarded as a Being of simple goodness, to the exclusion of all those other attributes,²⁶³⁸ sensations, and affections, which the Marcionites indeed transfer from their god to the Creator, and which we acknowledge to be worthy characteristics of the Creator too, but only because we consider Him to be God. Well, then, on this ground we shall deny him to be God in whom all things are not to be found which befit the Divine Being. If (Marcion) chose²⁶³⁹ to take any one of the school of Epicurus, and entitle him God in the name of Christ, on the ground that what is happy and incorruptible can bring no trouble either on itself or anything else (for Marcion, while poring over²⁶⁴⁰ this opinion of the divine indifference, has removed from him all the severity and energy of the judicial²⁶⁴¹ character), it was his duty to have developed his conceptions into some imperturbable and listless god (and then what could *he* have had in common with Christ, who occasioned trouble both to the Jews by what He taught, and to Himself by what He felt?), or else to have admitted that he was possessed of the same emotions as others²⁶⁴² (and in such case what would he have had to do with Epicurus, who was no friend²⁶⁴³ to either him or Christians?). For that a being who in ages past²⁶⁴⁴ was in a quiescent state, not caring to communicate any knowledge of himself by any work all the while, should come after so long a time to entertain a concern for man's salvation, of course by his own will,—did he



2636 Ingenitam. In chap. xxii. this word seems to be synonymous with *naturalem*. Comp. book ii. 3, where it has this sense in the phrase “Deo ingenita.”

2637 Improbam.

2638 Appendicibus.

2639 Affectavit.

2640 Ruminans.

2641 Judiciarias vires.

2642 De ceteris motibus.

2643 Nec necessario.

2644 Retro.

not by this very fact become susceptible of the impulse²⁶⁴⁵ of a new volition, so as palpably to be open to all other emotions? But what volition is unaccompanied with the spur of desire?²⁶⁴⁶ Who wishes for what he desires not? Moreover, care will be another companion of the will. For who will wish for any object and desire to have it, without also *caring* to obtain it? When, therefore, (Marcion's god) felt both a will and a desire for man's salvation, he certainly occasioned some concern and trouble both to himself and others. This Marcion's theory suggests, though Epicurus demurs. For he²⁶⁴⁷ raised up an adversary against himself in that very thing against which his will and desire, and care were directed,—whether it were sin or death,—and more especially in their Tyrant and Lord, the Creator of man. Again,²⁶⁴⁸ nothing will ever run its course without hostile rivalry,²⁶⁴⁹ which shall not (itself) be without a hostile aspect. In fact,²⁶⁵⁰ when willing, desiring, and caring to deliver man, (Marcion's god) already in the very act encounters a rival, both in Him from whom He effects the deliverance (for of course²⁶⁵¹ he means the liberation to be an opposition to Him), and also in those things from which the deliverance is wrought (the intended liberation being to the advantage of some other things). For it must needs be, that upon rivalry its own ancillary passions²⁶⁵² will be in attendance, against whatever objects its emulation is directed: anger, discord, hatred, disdain, indignation, spleen, loathing, displeasure. Now, since all these emotions are present to rivalry; since, moreover, the rivalry which arises in liberating man excites them; and since, again, this deliverance of man is an operation of goodness, it follows that this goodness avails nothing without its endowments,²⁶⁵³ that is to say, without those sensations and affections whereby it carries out its purpose²⁶⁵⁴ against the Creator; so that it cannot even in this be ruled²⁶⁵⁵ to be irrational, as if it were wanting in proper sensations and affections. These points we shall have to insist on²⁶⁵⁶ much more fully, when we come to plead the cause of the Creator, where they will also incur our condemnation.

2645 Concussibilis.

2646 Concupiscentiæ.

2647 (i.e., Marcion's god.)

2648 Porro.

2649 Æmulatione.

2650 Denique.

2651 Scilicet.

2652 Officiales suæ.

2653 Suis dotibus.

2654 Administratur.

2655 Præscribatur.

2656 Defendemus.

Chapter XXVI.—In the Attribute of Justice, Marcion's God is Hopelessly Weak and Ungodlike. He Dislikes Evil, But Does Not Punish Its Perpetration.

But it is here sufficient that the extreme perversity of their god is proved from the mere exposition of his lonely goodness, in which they refuse to ascribe to him such emotions of mind as they censure in the Creator. Now, if he is susceptible of no feeling of rivalry, or anger, or damage, or injury, as one who refrains from exercising judicial power, I cannot tell how any system of discipline—and that, too, a plenary one—can be consistent in him. For how is it possible that he should issue commands, if he does not mean to execute them; or forbid sins, if he intends not to punish them, but rather to decline the functions of the judge, as being a stranger to all notions of severity and judicial chastisement? For why does he forbid the commission of that which he punishes not when perpetrated? It would have been far more right, if he had not forbidden what he meant not to punish, than that he should punish what he had not forbidden. Nay, it was his duty even to have permitted what he was about to prohibit in so unreasonable a way, as to annex no penalty to the offence.²⁶⁵⁷ For even now that is tacitly permitted which is forbidden without any infliction of vengeance. Besides, he only forbids the commission of that which he does not like to have done. Most listless, therefore, is he, since he takes no offence at the doing of what he dislikes to be done, although displeasure ought to be the companion of his violated will. Now, if he is offended, he ought to be angry; if angry, he ought to inflict punishment. For such infliction is the just fruit of anger, and anger is the debt of displeasure, and displeasure (as I have said) is the companion of a violated will. However, he inflicts no punishment; therefore he takes no offence.

He takes no offence, therefore his will is not wronged, although that is done which he was unwilling to have done; and the transgression is now committed with the acquiescence of²⁶⁵⁸ his will, because whatever offends not the will is not committed against the will. Now, if this is to be the principle of the divine virtue or goodness, to be unwilling indeed that a thing be done and to prohibit it, and yet not be moved by its commission, we then allege that he has been moved already when he declared his unwillingness; and that it is vain for him not to be moved by the accomplishment of a thing after being moved at the possibility thereof, when he willed it not to be done. For he prohibited it by his not willing it. Did he not therefore do a judicial act, when he declared his unwillingness, and consequent prohibition of it? For he judged that it ought not to be done, and he deliberately declared²⁶⁵⁹ that it should be forbidden. Consequently by this time even he performs the part of a judge. If it is unbecoming for God to discharge a judicial function, or at least only so far becoming

2657 Ut non defensurus. Defendo = vindico. See Oehler's note for other instances.

2658 Secundum.

2659 Pronunciavit.

that He may merely declare His unwillingness, and pronounce His prohibition, then He may not even punish for an offence when it is committed. Now, nothing is so unworthy of the Divine Being as not to execute retribution on what He has disliked and forbidden. *First*, He owes the infliction of chastisement to whatever sentence or law He promulges, for the vindication of His authority and the maintenance of submission to it; *secondly*, because hostile opposition is inevitable to what He has disliked to be done, and by that dislike forbidden. Moreover, it would be a more unworthy course for God to spare the evil-doer than to punish him, especially in the most good and holy God, who is not otherwise fully good than as the enemy of evil, and *that* to such a degree as to display His love of good by the hatred of evil, and to fulfil His defence of the former by the extirpation of the latter.

Chapter XXVII.—Dangerous Effects to Religion and Morality of the Doctrine of So Weak a God.

Again, he plainly judges evil by not willing it, and condemns it by prohibiting it; while, on the other hand, he acquits it by not avenging it, and lets it go free by not punishing it. What a prevaricator of truth is such a god! What a dissembler with his own decision! Afraid to condemn what he really condemns, afraid to hate what he does not love, permitting that to be done which he does not allow, choosing to indicate what he dislikes rather than deeply examine it! This will turn out an imaginary goodness, a phantom of discipline, perfunctory in duty, careless in sin. Listen, ye sinners; and ye who have not yet come to this, hear, that you may attain to such a pass! A better god has been discovered, who never takes offence, is never angry, never inflicts punishment, who has prepared no fire in hell, no gnashing of teeth in the outer darkness! He is purely and simply good. He indeed forbids all delinquency, but only in word. He is in you, if you are willing to pay him homage,²⁶⁶⁰ for the sake of appearances, that you may seem to honour God; for your fear he does not want. And so satisfied are the Marcionites with such pretences, that they have no fear of their god at all. They say it is only a bad man who will be feared, a good man will be loved. Foolish man, do you say that he whom you call Lord ought not to be feared, whilst the very title you give him indicates a power which must itself be feared? But how are you going to love, without some fear that you do not love? Surely (such a god) is neither your Father, towards whom your love for duty's sake should be consistent with fear because of His power; nor your proper²⁶⁶¹ Lord, whom you should love for His humanity and fear as your teacher.²⁶⁶² Kidnappers²⁶⁶³ indeed are loved after this fashion, but they are not feared. For power will not be feared, except it be just and regular, although it may possibly be loved even when corrupt: for it is by allurements that it stands, not by authority; by flattery, not by proper influence. And what can be more direct flattery than not to punish sins? Come, then, if you do not fear God as being good, why do you not boil over into every kind of lust, and so realize that which is, I believe, the main enjoyment of life to all who fear not God? Why do you not frequent the customary pleasures of the maddening circus, the bloodthirsty arena,

2660 Obsequium subsignare.

2661 Legitimus.

2662 Propter disciplinam.

2663 Plagiarii. The *Plagiarius* is the ἀνδραποδιστής or the ψυχαγωγός of Alex. Greek. This “man-stealing” profession was often accompanied with agreeable external accomplishments. Nempe ψυχαγωγοί, quia blandis et mellitis verbis servos alienos sollicitant, et ad se alliciunt. Clemens Alex. *Strom.* i. λύκοι ἄρπαγες προβάτων κωδίοις ἐγκεκρυμμένοι, ἀνδραποδιστοὶ τε καὶ ψυχαγωγοὶ εὐγλῶσσοι, κλέπτοντες μὲν ἀφανῶς, κ.τ.λ.—Desid. Herald. *Animad. ad Arnobium*, p. 101.

and the lascivious theatre?²⁶⁶⁴ Why in persecutions also do you not, when the censor is presented, at once redeem your life by the denial of your faith? God forbid, you say with redoubled²⁶⁶⁵ emphasis. So you do fear sin, and by your fear prove that He is an object of fear Who forbids the sin. This is quite a different matter from that obsequious homage you pay to the god whom you do not fear, which is identical in perversity indeed to its own conduct, in prohibiting a thing without annexing the sanction of punishment. Still more vainly do they act, who when asked, What is to become of every sinner in that great day? reply, that he is to be cast away out of sight. Is not even this a question of judicial determination? He is adjudged to deserve rejection, and that by a sentence of condemnation; unless the sinner is cast away forsooth for his salvation, that even a leniency like this may fall in consistently with the character of your most good and excellent god! And what will it be to be cast away, but to lose that which a man was in the way of obtaining, were it not for his rejection—that is, his salvation? Therefore his being cast away will involve the forfeiture of salvation; and this sentence cannot possibly be passed upon him, except by an angry and offended authority, who is also the punisher of sin—that is, by a judge.



2664 Comp. *Apology*, 38.

2665 Absit, inquis, absit. [i.e., the throwing of a grain of incense into the censor, before the Emperor's image or that of a heathen god.]

Chapter XXVIII.—This Perverse Doctrine Deprives Baptism of All Its Grace. If Marcion Be Right, the Sacrament Would Confer No Remission of Sins, No Regeneration, No Gift of the Spirit.

And what will happen to him after he is cast away? He will, they say, be thrown into the Creator's fire. Then has no remedial provision been made (by their god) for the purpose of banishing those that sin against him, without resorting to the cruel measure of delivering them over to the Creator? And what will the Creator then do? I suppose He will prepare for them a hell doubly charged with brimstone,²⁶⁶⁶ as for blasphemers against Himself; except indeed their god in his zeal, as perhaps might happen, should show clemency to his rival's revolted subjects. Oh, what a god is this! everywhere perverse; nowhere rational; in all cases vain; and therefore a nonentity!²⁶⁶⁷—in whose state, and condition, and nature, and every appointment, I see no coherence and consistency; no, not even in the very sacrament of his faith! For what end does baptism serve, according to him? If the remission of sins, how will he make it evident that he remits sins, when he affords no evidence that he retains them? Because he would retain them, if he performed the functions of a judge. If deliverance from death, how could he deliver *from* death, who has not delivered *to* death? For he must have delivered the sinner to death, if he had from the beginning condemned sin. If the regeneration of man, how can he regenerate, who has never generated? For the repetition of an act is impossible to him, by whom nothing any time has been ever done. If the bestowal of the Holy Ghost, how will he bestow the Spirit, who did not at first impart the life? For the life is in a sense the supplement²⁶⁶⁸ of the Spirit. He therefore seals man, who had never been unsealed²⁶⁶⁹ in respect of him;²⁶⁷⁰ washes man, who had never been defiled so far as he was concerned;²⁶⁷¹ and into this sacrament of salvation wholly plunges that flesh which is beyond the pale of salvation!²⁶⁷² No farmer will irrigate ground that will yield him no fruit in return, except he be as stupid as Marcion's god. Why then impose sanctity upon our most infirm and most unworthy flesh, either as a burden or as a glory? What shall I say, too, of

2666 Sulphuratiorem gehennam.

2667 Ita neminem.

2668 Suffectura. A something whereon the Spirit may operate; so that the Spirit has a *præfectura* over the anima. [Kaye, p. 179.]

2669 Resignatum. Tertullian here yields to his love of antithesis, and makes almost nonsense of *signo* and *resigno*. The latter verb has the meaning *violate* (in opposition to *signo*, in the phrase *virgo signata*, a pure unviolated virgin).

2670 Apud se.

2671 Apud se.

2672 Exsortem salutis.

the uselessness of a discipline which sanctifies what is already sanctified? Why burden the infirm, or glorify the unworthy? Why not remunerate with salvation what it burdens or else glorifies? Why keep back from a work its due reward, by not recompensing the flesh with salvation? Why even permit the honour of sanctity in it to die?

Chapter XXIX.—Marcion Forbids Marriage. Tertullian Eloquently Defends It as Holy, and Carefully Discriminates Between Marcion's Doctrine and His Own Montanism.

The flesh is not, according to Marcion, immersed in the water of the sacrament, unless it be²⁶⁷³ in virginity, widowhood, or celibacy, or has purchased by divorce a title to baptism, as if even generative impotents²⁶⁷⁴ did not all receive their flesh from nuptial union. Now, such a scheme as this must no doubt involve the proscription of marriage. Let us see, then, whether it be a just one: not as if we aimed at destroying the happiness of sanctity, as do certain Nicolaitans in their maintenance of lust and luxury, but as those who have come to the knowledge of sanctity, and pursue it and prefer it, without detriment, however, to marriage; not as if we superseded a bad thing by a good, but only a good thing by a better. For we do not reject marriage, but simply refrain from it.²⁶⁷⁵ Nor do we prescribe sanctity²⁶⁷⁶ as the rule, but only recommend it, observing it as a good, yea, even the better state, if each man uses it carefully²⁶⁷⁷ according to his ability; but at the same time earnestly vindicating marriage, whenever hostile attacks are made against it is a polluted thing, to the disparagement of the Creator. For He bestowed His blessing on matrimony also, as on an honourable estate, for the increase of the human race; as He did indeed on the whole of His creation,²⁶⁷⁸ for wholesome and good uses. Meats and drinks are not on this account to be condemned, because, when served up with too exquisite a daintiness, they conduce to gluttony; nor is raiment to be blamed, because, when too costlily adorned, it becomes inflated with vanity and pride. So, on the same principle, the estate of matrimony is not to be refused, because, when enjoyed without moderation, it is fanned into a voluptuous flame. There is a great difference between a cause and a fault,²⁶⁷⁹ between a state and its excess. Consequently it is not an institution of this nature that is to be blamed, but the extravagant use of it; according to the judgment of its founder Himself, who not only said, "Be fruitful, and multiply,"²⁶⁸⁰



2673 Free from all matrimonial impurity.

2674 Spadonibus. This word is more general in sense than *eunuch*, embracing such as are impotent both by nature and by castration, White and Riddle's *Lat. Dict. s.v.*

2675 Tertullian's *Montanism* appears here.

2676 i.e., abstinence from marriage.

2677 Sectando. [This, indeed, seems to be a fair statement of Patristic doctrine concerning marriage. As to our author's variations see Kaye, p. 378.]

2678 Universum conditionis.

2679 *Causa* in its proper sense is, "that through which anything takes place;" its just and normal state, therefore. *Culpa* is the derangement of the cause; some flaw in it.

2680 [Gen. i. 28.](#)

but also, “Thou shalt not commit adultery,” and, “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife;”²⁶⁸¹ and who threatened with death the unchaste, sacrilegious, and monstrous abomination both of adultery and unnatural sin with man and beast.²⁶⁸² Now, if any limitation is set to marrying—such as the spiritual rule,²⁶⁸³ which prescribes but one marriage under the Christian obedience,²⁶⁸⁴ maintained by the authority of the Paraclete,²⁶⁸⁵—it will be His prerogative to fix the limit Who had once been diffuse in His permission; His to gather, Who once scattered; His to cut down the tree, Who planted it; His to reap the harvest, Who sowed the seed; His to declare, “It remaineth that they who have wives be as though they had none;”²⁶⁸⁶ Who once said, “Be fruitful, and multiply;” His the end to Whom belonged the beginning. Nevertheless, the tree is not cut down as if it deserved blame; nor is the corn reaped, as if it were to be condemned,—but simply because their time is come. So likewise the state of matrimony does not require the hook and scythe of sanctity, as if it were evil; but as being ripe for its discharge, and in readiness for that sanctity which will in the long run bring it a plenteous crop by its reaping. For this leads me to remark of Marcion’s god, that in reproaching marriage as an evil and unchaste thing, he is really prejudicing the cause of that very sanctity which he seems to serve. For he destroys the material on which it subsists; if there is to be no marriage, there is no sanctity. All proof of abstinence is lost when excess is impossible; for sundry things have thus their evidence in their contraries. Just as “strength is made perfect in weakness,”²⁶⁸⁷ so likewise is continence made manifest by the permission to marry. Who indeed will be called continent, if that be taken away which gives him the opportunity of pursuing a life of continence? What room for temperance in appetite does famine give? What repudiation of ambitious projects does poverty afford? What bridling of lust can the eunuch merit? To put a complete stop, however, to the sowing of the human race, may, for aught I know, be quite consistent for Marcion’s most good and excellent god. For how could he desire the salvation of man, whom he forbids to be born, when he takes away that institution from which his birth arises? How will he find any one on whom to set the mark of his goodness, when he suffers him not to come into existence? How is it possible to love him whose origin he hates? Perhaps he is afraid of a redundant population, lest he should be weary in liberating so many; lest he should have to make many

2681 [Ex. xx. 14, 17.](#)

2682 [Lev. xx. 10, 13, 15.](#)

2683 Ratio.

2684 In fide. Tertullian uses (*De Pud.* 18) “ante fidem” as synonymous with *ante baptismum*; similarly “post fidem.”

2685 [Bad as this is, does it argue the lapse of our author as at this time complete?]

2686 [1 Cor. vii. 29.](#)

2687 [2 Cor. xii. 9.](#)

heretics; lest Marcionite parents should produce too many noble disciples of Marcion. The cruelty of Pharaoh, which slew its victims at their birth, will not prove to be more inhuman in comparison.²⁶⁸⁸ For while he destroyed lives, our heretic's god refuses to give them: the one removes from life, the other admits none to it. There is no difference in either as to their homicide—man is slain by both of them; by the former just after birth, by the latter as yet unborn. Thanks should we owe thee, thou god of our heretic, hadst thou only checked²⁶⁸⁹ the dispensation of the Creator in uniting male and female; for from such a union indeed has thy Marcion been born! Enough, however, of Marcion's god, who is shown to have absolutely no existence at all, both by our definitions²⁶⁹⁰ of the one only Godhead, and the condition of his attributes.²⁶⁹¹ The whole course, however, of this little work aims directly at this conclusion. If, therefore, we seem to anybody to have achieved but little result as yet, let him reserve his expectations, until we examine the very Scripture which Marcion quotes.



2688 This is the force of the *erit* instead of the past tense.

2689 *Isses in*, i.e., *obstitisses*, *check* or *resist*, for then Marcion would, of course, not have been born: the common text has *esses in*.

2690 Tertullian has discussed these “definitions” in chap. ii. vii., and the “conditions” from chap. viii. onward. He will “examine the Scripture” passages in books iv. and v. Fr. Junius.

2691 *Statuum*.

Book II.²⁶⁹²

Wherein Tertullian shows that the creator, or demiurge, whom Marcion calumniated, is the true and good God.



Chapter I.—The Methods of Marcion's Argument Incorrect and Absurd. The Proper Course of the Argument.

The occasion of reproducing this little work, the fortunes of which we noticed in the preface of our first book, has furnished us with the opportunity of distinguishing, in our treatment of the subject of two Gods in opposition to Marcion, each of them with a description and section of his own, according to the division of the subject-matter, defining one of the gods to have no existence at all, and maintaining of the Other that He is rightly²⁶⁹³ God; thus far keeping pace with the heretic of Pontus, who has been pleased to admit one unto, and exclude the other.²⁶⁹⁴ For he could not build up his mendacious scheme without pulling down the system of truth. He found it necessary to demolish²⁶⁹⁵ some other thing, in order to build up the theory which he wished. This process, however, is like constructing a house without preparing suitable materials.²⁶⁹⁶ The discussion ought to have been directed to this point alone, that he is no god who supersedes the Creator. Then, when the false god had been excluded by certain rules which prescriptively settle what is the character of the One only perfect Divinity, there could have remained no longer any question as to the true God. The proof of His existence would have been clear, and that, too, amid the failure of all evidence in support of any other god; and still clearer²⁶⁹⁷ would have seemed the point as to the honour in which He ought without controversy to be held: that He ought to be worshipped rather than judged; served reverentially rather than handled critically, or even dreaded for His severity. For what was more fully needed by man than a careful estimate

2692 [Contains no marks of Montanism of a decisive nature. Kaye, p. 54.]

2693 Digne.

2694 From the dignity of the supreme Godhead.

2695 Snbruerē.

2696 Propria paratura.

2697 With the *tanto* (answering to the previous *quanto*) should be understood *magis*, a frequent omission in our author.

of²⁶⁹⁸ the true God, on whom, so to speak, he had alighted,²⁶⁹⁹ because there was no other god?

2698 Cura in.

2699 Inciderat.

Chapter II.—The True Doctrine of God the Creator. The Heretics Pretended to a Knowledge of the Divine Being, Opposed to and Subversive of Revelation. God's Nature and Ways Past Human Discovery. Adam's Heresy.

We have now, then, cleared our way to the contemplation of the Almighty God, the Lord and Maker of the universe. His greatness, as I think, is shown in this, that from the beginning He made Himself known: He never hid Himself, but always shone out brightly, even before the time of Romulus, to say nothing of that of Tiberius; with the exception indeed that the heretics, and they alone, know Him not, although they take such pains about Him. They on this account suppose that another god must be assumed to exist, because they are more able to censure than deny Him whose existence is so evident, deriving all their thoughts about God from the deductions of sense; just as if some blind man, or a man of imperfect vision,²⁷⁰⁰ chose to assume some other sun of milder and healthier ray, because he sees not that which is the object of sight.²⁷⁰¹ There is, O man, but one sun which rules²⁷⁰² this world and even when you think otherwise of him, he is best and useful; and although to you he may seem too fierce and baneful, or else, it may be, too sordid and corrupt, he yet is true to the laws of his own existence. Unable as you are to see through those laws, you would be equally impotent to bear the rays of any other sun, were there one, however great and good. Now, you whose sight is defective²⁷⁰³ in respect of the inferior god, what is your view of the sublimer One? Really you are too lenient²⁷⁰⁴ to your weakness; and set not yourself to the proof²⁷⁰⁵ of things, holding God to be certainly, undoubtedly, and therefore sufficiently known, the very moment you have discovered Him to exist, though you know Him not except on the side where He has willed His proofs to lie. But you do not even deny God intelligently,²⁷⁰⁶ you treat of Him ignorantly;²⁷⁰⁷ nay, you accuse Him with a semblance of intelligence,²⁷⁰⁸ whom if you did but know Him, you would never accuse, nay, never treat of.²⁷⁰⁹ You give Him His name indeed, but you deny the essential truth of that name, that is, the greatness which is called God; not acknowledging it to be such as, were it possible for it to



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- 2700 Fluitantibus oculis.
2701 Quem videat non videt.
2702 Temperat.
2703 Cæcutis.
2704 Quin potius parcis.
2705 In periculum extenderis.
2706 Ut sciens.
2707 Ut nesciens.
2708 Quasi sciens.
2709 Retractares.

have been known to man in every respect,²⁷¹⁰ would not be greatness. Isaiah even so early, with the clearness of an apostle, foreseeing the thoughts of heretical hearts, asked, “Who hath known the mind of the Lord? For who hath been His counsellor? With whom took He counsel?...or who taught Him knowledge, and showed to Him the way of understanding?”²⁷¹¹ With whom the apostle agreeing exclaims, “Oh the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!”²⁷¹² “His judgments unsearchable,” as being those of God the Judge; and “His ways past finding out,” as comprising an understanding and knowledge which no man has ever shown to Him, except it may be those critics of the Divine Being, who say, God ought not to have been this,²⁷¹³ and He ought rather to have been that; as if any one knew what is in God, except the Spirit of God.²⁷¹⁴ Moreover, having the spirit of the world, and “in the wisdom of God by wisdom knowing not God,”²⁷¹⁵ they seem to themselves to be wiser²⁷¹⁶ than God; because, as the wisdom of the world is foolishness with God, so also the wisdom of God is folly in the world’s esteem. We, however, know that “the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”²⁷¹⁷ Accordingly, God is then especially great, when He is small²⁷¹⁸ to man; then especially good, when not good in man’s judgment; then especially unique, when He seems to man to be two or more. Now, if from the very first “the natural man, not receiving the things of the Spirit of God,”²⁷¹⁹ has deemed God’s law to be foolishness, and has therefore neglected to observe it; and as a further consequence, by his not having faith, “even that which he seemeth to have hath been taken from him”²⁷²⁰—such as the grace of paradise and the friendship of God, by means of which he might have known all things of God, if he had continued in his obedience—what wonder is it, if he,²⁷²¹ reduced to his material nature, and banished to the toil of tilling the ground, has in his very labour, downcast and earth-gravitating as it was, handed on that earth-derived spirit of the world to his entire race, wholly natural²⁷²² and heretical as it is,

2710 Omnifariam.

2711 Comp. Isa. xl. 13, 14, with Rom. xi. 34.

2712 Rom. xi. 33.

2713 Sic non debuit Deus. This perhaps may mean, God ought not to have *done* this, etc.

2714 1 Cor. ii. 11.

2715 1 Cor. i. 21.

2716 Consultiores.

2717 1 Cor. i. 25.

2718 Pusillus.

2719 1 Cor. ii. 14.

2720 Luke viii. 18; comp. Matt. xiii. 12.

2721 That is, the natural man, the ψυχικός.

2722 Animalis = ψυχικῶ.

and not receiving the things which belong to God? Or who will hesitate to declare the great sin of Adam to have been heresy, when he committed it by the choice²⁷²³ of his own will rather than of God's? Except that Adam never said to his fig-tree, Why hast thou made me thus? He confessed that he was led astray; and he did not conceal the seducer. He was a very rude heretic. He was disobedient; but yet he did not blaspheme his Creator, nor blame that Author of his being, Whom from the beginning of his life he had found to be so good and excellent, and Whom he had perhaps²⁷²⁴ made his own judge from the very first.

2723 Electionem. By this word our author translates the Greek αίρεσις, Comp. *De Præscr. Her.* 6, p. 245, *supra*.

2724 Si forte.

Chapter III.—God Known by His Works. His Goodness Shown in His Creative Energy; But Everlasting in Its Nature; Inherent in God, Previous to All Exhibition of It. The First Stage of This Goodness Prior to Man.

It will therefore be right for us, as we enter on the examination of the known God, when the question arises, in what condition He is known to us, to begin with His works, which are prior to man; so that His goodness, being discovered immediately along with Himself, and then constituted and prescriptively settled, may suggest to us some sense whereby we may understand how the subsequent order of things came about. The disciples of Marcion, moreover, may possibly be able, while recognising the goodness of our God, to learn how worthy it is likewise of the Divine Being, on those very grounds whereby we have proved it to be unworthy in the case of their god. Now this very point,²⁷²⁵ which is a material one in their scheme,²⁷²⁶ Marcion did not find in any other god, but eliminated it for himself out of his own god. The first goodness, then,²⁷²⁷ was that of the Creator, whereby God was unwilling to remain hidden for ever; in other words, (unwilling) that there should not be a something by which God should become known. For what, indeed, is so good as the knowledge and fruition²⁷²⁸ of God? Now, although it did not transpire that this was good, because as yet there existed nothing to which it could transpire,²⁷²⁹ yet God foreknew what good would eventually transpire, and therefore He set Himself about developing²⁷³⁰ His own perfect goodness, for the accomplishment of the good which was to transpire; not, indeed, a sudden goodness issuing in some accidental boon²⁷³¹ or in some excited impulse,²⁷³² such as must be dated simply from the moment when it began to operate. For if it did itself produce its own beginning when it began to operate, it had not, in fact, a beginning itself when it acted. When, however, an initial act had been once done by it, the scheme of temporal seasons began, for distinguishing and noting which, the stars and luminaries of heaven were arranged in their order. “Let them be,” says God, “for seasons, and for days, and years.”²⁷³³ Previous, then, to this temporal course, (the goodness) which created time



2725 That is, “the goodness” of God.

2726 Agnitionis, their *Gnostic* scheme.

2727 Denique. This particle refers back to the argument previous to its interruption by the allusion to Marcion and his followers.

2728 Fructus, the enjoyment of God’s works.

2729 Apparebat. [Was not manifest.]

2730 Commisit in.

2731 Obventiciæ bonitatis.

2732 Provocaticiæ animationis.

2733 [Gen. i. 14.](#)

had not time; nor before that beginning which the same goodness originated, had it a beginning. Being therefore without all order of a beginning, and all mode of time, it will be reckoned to possess an age, measureless in extent²⁷³⁴ and endless in duration;²⁷³⁵ nor will it be possible to regard it as a sudden or adventitious or impulsive emotion, because it has nothing to occasion such an estimate of itself; in other words, no sort of temporal sequence. It must therefore be accounted an eternal attribute, inbred in God,²⁷³⁶ and everlasting,²⁷³⁷ and on this account worthy of the Divine Being, putting to shame for ever²⁷³⁸ the benevolence of Marcion's god, subsequent as he is to (I will not say) all beginnings and times, but to the very malignity of the Creator, if indeed malignity could possibly have been found in goodness.

2734 Immensa.

2735 Interminabili.

2736 Deo ingenita "Natural to," or "inherent in."

2737 Perpetua. [Truly, a sublime Theodicy.]

2738 Suffundens jam hinc.

Chapter IV.—The Next Stage Occurs in the Creation of Man by the Eternal Word.
Spiritual as Well as Physical Gifts to Man. The Blessings of Man's Free-Will.

The goodness of God having, therefore, provided man for the pursuit of the knowledge of Himself, added this to its original notification,²⁷³⁹ that it first prepared a habitation for him, the vast fabric (of the world) to begin with, and then afterwards²⁷⁴⁰ the vaster one (of a higher world,²⁷⁴¹) that he might on a great as well as on a smaller stage practise and advance in his probation, and so be promoted from the *good* which God had given him, that is, from his high position, to God's *best*; that is, to some higher abode.²⁷⁴² In this good work *God* employs a most excellent minister, even His own Word. "My heart," He says, "hath emitted my most excellent Word."²⁷⁴³ Let Marcion take hence his first lesson on the noble fruit of this truly most excellent tree. But, like a most clumsy clown, he has grafted a good branch on a bad stock. The sapling, however, of his blasphemy shall be never strong: it shall wither with its planter, and thus shall be manifested the nature of the good tree. Look at the total result: how fruitful was the Word! God issued His *fiat*, and it was done: God also saw that it was good;²⁷⁴⁴ not as if He were ignorant of the good until He saw it; but because it was good, He therefore saw it, and honoured it, and set His seal upon it; and consummated²⁷⁴⁵ the goodness of His works by His vouchsafing to them that contemplation. Thus God blessed what He made good, in order that He might commend Himself to you as whole and perfect,



2739 Præconio suo.

2740 Postmodum...postmodum.

2741 See Bp. Bull on *The State of Man before the Fall*, Works, ii. 73–81.

2742 Habitaculum majus.

2743 "Eructavit cor. meum Sermonem optimum" is Tertullian's reading of *Ps. xlv. 1*, "My heart is inditing a good matter," A.V., which the Vulgate, *Ps. xlv. 1*, renders by "Eructavit cor meum verbum bonum," and the Septuagint by Ἐξηρεύξατο ἡ καρδία μου λόγον ἀγαθόν. This is a tolerably literal rendering of the original words, **רָהֵשׁ לִּי רִכָּר טוֹב**. In these words the Fathers used to descry an adumbration of the mystery of the Son's eternal generation from the Father, and His coming forth in time to create the world. See Bellarmine, *On the Psalms* (Paris ed. 1861), vol. i. 292. The Psalm is no doubt eminently Messianic, as both Jewish and Christian writers have ever held. See Perowne, *The Psalms*, vol. i. p. 216. Bishop Bull reviews at length the theological opinions of Tertullian, and shows that he held the eternity of the Son of God, whom he calls "Sermo" or "Verbum Dei." See *Defensio Fidei Nicænæ* (translation in the "Oxford Library of the Fathers," by the translator of this work) vol. ii. 509–545. In the same volume, p. 482, the passage from the Psalm before us is similarly applied by Novatian: "Sic Dei Verbum processit, de quo dictum est, *Eructavit cor meum Verbum bonum*." [See vol. ii. p. 98, this series: and Kaye, p. 515.]

2744 *Gen. i.*

2745 Dispungens, i.e., examinans et probans et ita quasi consummans (Oehler).

good both in word and act.²⁷⁴⁶ As yet the Word knew no malediction, because He was a stranger to malefaction.²⁷⁴⁷ We shall see what reasons required *this* also of God. Meanwhile the world consisted of all things good, plainly foreshowing how much good was preparing for him for whom all this was provided. Who indeed was so worthy of dwelling amongst the works of God, as he who was His own image and likeness? That image was wrought out by a goodness even more operative than its wont,²⁷⁴⁸ with no imperious word, but with friendly hand preceded by an almost affable²⁷⁴⁹ utterance: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”²⁷⁵⁰ Goodness spake the word; Goodness formed man of the dust of the ground into so great a substance of the flesh, built up out of one material with so many qualities; Goodness breathed into him a soul, not dead but living. Goodness gave him dominion²⁷⁵¹ over all things, which he was to enjoy and rule over, and even give names to. In addition to this, Goodness annexed pleasures²⁷⁵² to man so that, while master of the whole world,²⁷⁵³ he might tarry among higher delights, being translated into paradise, out of the world into the Church.²⁷⁵⁴ The self-same Goodness provided also a help meet for him, that there might be nothing in his lot that was not good. For, said He, that the man be alone is not good.²⁷⁵⁵ He knew full well what a blessing to him would be the sex of Mary,²⁷⁵⁶ and also of the Church. The law, however, which you find fault with,²⁷⁵⁷ and wrest into a subject of contention, was imposed on man by Goodness, aiming at his happiness, that he might cleave to God, and so not show himself an abject creature rather than a free one, nor reduce himself to the level of the other animals, his subjects, which were free from God, and exempt from all tedious subjection;²⁷⁵⁸ but might, as the sole human being, boast that he

2746 This twofold virtue is very tersely expressed: “Sic et *benedicebat* quæ *benefaciebat*.”

2747 This, the translator fears, is only a clumsy way of representing the terseness of our author’s “maledicere” and “malefacere.”

2748 Bonitas et quidem operantior.

2749 Blandiente.

2750 [Gen. i. 26.](#)

2751 Præfecit.

2752 Delicias.

2753 Totius orbis possidens.

2754 There is a profound thought here; in his tract, *De Pœnit.* 10, he says, “Where *one or two* are, is the church, and the church is Christ.” Hence what he here calls Adam’s “higher delights,” even spiritual blessings in Christ with Eve. [Important note in Kaye, p. 304.]

2755 See [Gen. ii. 18.](#)

2756 Sexum Mariæ. For the Virgin Mary gave birth to Christ, the Saviour of men; and the virgin mother the Church, the spouse of Christ, gives birth to Christians (Rigalt.).

2757 Arguis.

2758 Ex fastidio liberis.

alone was worthy of receiving laws from God; and as a rational being, capable of intelligence and knowledge, be restrained within the bounds of rational liberty, subject to Him who had subjected all things unto him. To secure the observance of this law, Goodness likewise took counsel by help of this sanction: "In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die."²⁷⁵⁹ For it was a most benignant act of His thus to point out the issues of transgression, lest ignorance of the danger should encourage a neglect of obedience. Now, since²⁷⁶⁰ it was given as a reason previous to the imposition of the law, it also amounted to a motive for subsequently observing it, that a penalty was annexed to its transgression; a penalty, indeed, which He who proposed it was still unwilling that it should be incurred. Learn then the goodness of our God amidst these things and up to this point; learn it from His excellent works, from His kindly blessings, from His indulgent bounties, from His gracious providences, from His laws and warnings, so good and merciful.

2759 Gen. ii. 17.

2760 Porro si.

Chapter V.—Marcion's Cavils Considered. His Objection Refuted, I.e., Man's Fall Showed Failure in God. The Perfection of Man's Being Lay in His Liberty, Which God Purposely Bestowed on Him. The Fall Imputable to Man's Own Choice.

Now then, ye dogs, whom the apostle puts outside,²⁷⁶¹ and who yelp at the God of truth, let us come to your various questions. These are the bones of contention, which you are perpetually gnawing! If God is good, and prescient of the future, and able to avert evil, why did He permit man, the very image and likeness of Himself, and, by the origin of his soul, His own substance too, to be deceived by the devil, and fall from obedience of the law into death? For if He had been good, and so unwilling that such a catastrophe should happen, and prescient, so as not to be ignorant of what was to come to pass, and powerful enough to hinder its occurrence, that issue would never have come about, which should be impossible under these three conditions of the divine greatness. Since, however, it has occurred, the contrary proposition is most certainly true, that God must be deemed neither good, nor prescient, nor powerful. For *as* no such issue could have happened had God been such as He is reputed—good, and prescient, and mighty—*so* has this issue actually happened, because He is not such a God. In reply, we must first vindicate those attributes in the Creator which are called in question—namely, His goodness and foreknowledge, and power. But I shall not linger long over this point²⁷⁶² for Christ's own definition²⁷⁶³ comes to our aid at once. From works must proofs be obtained. The Creator's works testify at once to His goodness, since they are good, as we have shown, and to His power, since they are mighty, and spring indeed out of nothing. And even if they were made out of some (previous) matter, as some²⁷⁶⁴ will have it, they are even thus out of nothing, because they *were* not what they *are*. In short, both they are great because they are good; and²⁷⁶⁵ God is likewise mighty, because all things are His own, whence He is almighty. But what shall I say of His prescience, which has for its witnesses as many prophets as it inspired? After all,²⁷⁶⁶ what title to prescience do we look for in the Author of the universe, since it was by this very attribute that He foreknew all things when He appointed them their places, and appointed them their places when He foreknew them? There is sin itself. If He had not foreknown this, He would not have proclaimed a caution against it under the penalty of death. Now if there were in God such attributes as must have rendered it both impossible and improper for any evil to have happened



2761 [Rev. xxii. 15.](#)

2762 [Articulo.](#)

2763 [John x. 25.](#)

2764 He refers to Hermogenes; see *Adv. Hermog.* chap. xxxii.

2765 [Vel...vel.](#)

2766 [Quanquam.](#)

to man,²⁷⁶⁷ and yet evil did occur, let us consider man's condition also—whether *it* were not, in fact, rather the cause why that came to pass which could not have happened through God. I find, then, that man was by God constituted free, master of his own will and power; indicating the presence of God's image and likeness in him by nothing so well as by this constitution of his nature. For it was not by his face, and by the lineaments of his body, though they were so varied in his human nature, that he expressed his likeness to the form of God; but he showed his stamp²⁷⁶⁸ in that essence which he derived from God Himself (that is, the spiritual,²⁷⁶⁹ which answered to the form of God), and in the freedom and power of his will. This his state was confirmed even by the very law which God then imposed upon him. For a law would not be imposed upon one who had it not in his power to render that obedience which is due to law; nor again, would the penalty of death be threatened against sin, if a contempt of the law were impossible to man in the liberty of his will. So in the Creator's subsequent laws also you will find, when He sets before man good and evil, life and death, that the entire course of discipline is arranged in precepts by God's calling men from sin, and threatening and exhorting them; and this on no other ground than²⁷⁷⁰ that man is free, with a will either for obedience or resistance.

2767 As the Marcionites alleged.

2768 Signatus est.

2769 Animæ.

2770 Nec alias nisi.

Chapter VI.—This Liberty Vindicated in Respect of Its Original Creation; Suitable Also for Exhibiting the Goodness and the Purpose of God. Reward and Punishment Impossible If Man Were Good or Evil Through Necessity and Not Choice.

But although we shall be understood, from our argument, to be only so affirming man's unshackled power over his will, that what happens to him should be laid to his own charge, and not to God's, yet that you may not object, even now, that he ought not to have been so constituted, since his liberty and power of will might turn out to be injurious, I will first of all maintain that he was rightly so constituted, that I may with the greater confidence commend both his actual constitution, and the additional fact of its being worthy of the Divine Being; the cause which led to man's being created with such a constitution being shown to be the better one. Moreover, man thus constituted will be protected by both the goodness of God and by His purpose,²⁷⁷¹ both of which are always found in concert in our God. For His purpose is no purpose without goodness; nor is His goodness goodness without a purpose, except forsooth in the case of Marcion's god, who is purposelessly²⁷⁷² good, as we have shown.²⁷⁷³ Well, then, it was proper that God should be known; it was no doubt²⁷⁷⁴ a good and reasonable²⁷⁷⁵ thing. Proper also was it that there should be something worthy of knowing God. What could be found so worthy as the image and likeness of God? This also was undoubtedly good and reasonable. Therefore it was proper that (he who is) the image and likeness of God should be formed with a free will and a mastery of himself;²⁷⁷⁶ so that this very thing—namely, freedom of will and self-command—might be reckoned as the image and likeness of God in him. For this purpose such an essence²⁷⁷⁷ was adapted²⁷⁷⁸ to man as suited this character,²⁷⁷⁹ even the afflatus of the Deity, Himself free and uncontrolled.²⁷⁸⁰ But if you will take some other view of the case,²⁷⁸¹ how came it to pass²⁷⁸² that



2771 Ratio, or, "His reason." We have used both words, which are equally suitable to the Divine Being, as seemed most convenient.

2772 Irrationaliter, or, "irrationally."

2773 See above, book i. chap. xxiii. p. 288.

2774 Utique.

2775 Rationale, or, "consistent with His purpose."

2776 Suæ potestatis.

2777 Substantia.

2778 Accommodata.

2779 Status.

2780 Suæ potestatis.

2781 Sed et alias.

2782 Quale erat.

man, when in possession of the whole world, did not above all things reign in self-possession²⁷⁸³—a master over others, a slave to himself? The goodness of God, then, you can learn from His gracious gift²⁷⁸⁴ to man, and His purpose from His disposal of all things.²⁷⁸⁵ At present, let God's *goodness* alone occupy our attention, that which gave so large a gift to man, even the liberty of his will. God's *purpose* claims some other opportunity of treatment, offering as it does instruction of like import. Now, God alone is good by nature. For He, who has that which is without beginning, has it not by creation,²⁷⁸⁶ but by nature. Man, however, who exists entirely by creation, having a beginning, along with that beginning obtained the form in which he exists; and thus he is not by nature disposed to good, but by creation, not having it as his own attribute to be good, because, (as we have said,) it is not by nature, but by creation, that he is disposed to good, according to the appointment of his good Creator, even the Author of all good. In order, therefore, that man might have a goodness of his own,²⁷⁸⁷ bestowed²⁷⁸⁸ on him by God, and there might be henceforth in man a property, and in a certain sense a natural attribute of goodness, there was assigned to him in the constitution of his nature, as a formal witness²⁷⁸⁹ of the goodness which God bestowed upon him, freedom and power of the will, such as should cause good to be performed spontaneously by man, as a property of his own, on the ground that no less than this²⁷⁹⁰ would be required in the matter of a goodness which was to be voluntarily exercised by him, that is to say, by the liberty of his will, without either favour or servility to the constitution of his nature, so that man should be good²⁷⁹¹ just up to this point,²⁷⁹² if he should display his goodness in accordance with his natural constitution indeed, but still as the result of his will, as a property of his nature; and, by a similar exercise of volition,²⁷⁹³ should show himself to be too strong²⁷⁹⁴ in defence against evil also (for even this God, of course, foresaw), being free, and master of himself; because, if he were wanting in this prerogative *of self-*

2783 Animi sui possessione.

2784 Dignatione.

2785 Ex dispositione. The same as the "universa disponendo" above.

2786 Institutione.

2787 Bonum jam suum, not *bonitatem*.

2788 Emancipatum.

2789 Libripens. The language here is full of legal technicalities, derived from the Roman usage in conveyance of property. "Libripens quasi arbiter mancipationis" (Rigalt.).

2790 Quoniam (with a subj.) et hoc.

2791 Bonus consisteret.

2792 Ita demum.

2793 Proinde.

2794 Fortior.

mastery, so as to perform even good by necessity and not will, he would, in the helplessness of his servitude, become subject to the usurpation of evil, a slave as much to evil as to good. Entire freedom of will, therefore, was conferred upon him in both tendencies; so that, as master of himself, he might constantly encounter good by spontaneous observance of it, and evil by its spontaneous avoidance; because, were man even otherwise circumstanced, it was yet his bounden duty, in the judgment of God, to do justice according to the motions²⁷⁹⁵ of his will regarded, of course, as free. But the reward neither of good nor of evil could be paid to the man who should be found to have been either good or evil through necessity and not choice. In this really lay²⁷⁹⁶ the law which did not exclude, but rather prove, *human* liberty by a spontaneous rendering of obedience, or a spontaneous commission of iniquity; so patent was the liberty of man's will for either issue. Since, therefore, both the goodness and purpose of God are²⁷⁹⁷ discovered in the gift to man of freedom in his will, it is not right, after ignoring the original definition of goodness and purpose which it was necessary to determine previous to any discussion of the subject, on subsequent facts to presume to say that God ought not in such a way to have formed man, because the issue was other than what was assumed to be²⁷⁹⁸ proper for God. We ought rather,²⁷⁹⁹ after duly considering that it behoved God so to create *man*, to leave this consideration unimpaired, and to survey the other aspects of the case. It is, no doubt, an easy process for persons who take offence at the fall of man, before they have looked into the facts of his creation, to impute the blame of what happened to the Creator, without any examination of His purpose. To conclude: the goodness of God, then fully considered from the beginning of His works, will be enough to convince us that nothing evil could possibly have come forth from God; and the liberty of man will, after a second thought,²⁸⁰⁰ show us that it alone is chargeable with the fault which itself committed.

2795 Meritis.

2796 Constituta est.

2797 Our author's word *invenitur* (in the singular) combines the *bonitas* and *ratio* in one view.

2798 The verb is *subj.*, "decretet."

2799 Sed, with *oportet* understood.

2800 Recogitata. [Again, a noble Theodicy.]

Chapter VII.—If God Had Anyhow Checked Man's Liberty, Marcion Would Have Been Ready with Another and Opposite Cavil. Man's Fall Foreseen by God. Provision Made for It Remedially and Consistently with His Truth and Goodness.

By such a conclusion all is reserved²⁸⁰¹ unimpaired to God; both His natural goodness, and the purposes of His governance and foreknowledge, and the abundance of His power. You ought, however, to deduct from God's attributes both His supreme earnestness of purpose²⁸⁰² and most excellent truth in His whole creation, if you would cease to inquire whether anything could have happened against the will of God. For, while holding this earnestness and truth of the good God, which are indeed²⁸⁰³ capable of proof from the rational creation, you will not wonder at the fact that God did not interfere to prevent the occurrence of what He wished not to happen, in order that He might keep from harm what He wished. For, since He had once for all allowed (and, as we have shown, worthily allowed) to man freedom of will and mastery of himself, surely He from His very authority in creation permitted *these gifts* to be enjoyed: to be enjoyed, too, so far as lay in Himself, according to His own character as God, that is, for good (for who would permit anything hostile to himself?); and, so far as lay in man, according to the impulses of his liberty (for who does not, when giving anything to any one to enjoy, accompany the gift with a permission to enjoy it with all his heart and will?). The necessary consequence,²⁸⁰⁴ therefore, was, that God must separate from the liberty which He had once for all bestowed upon man (in other words, keep within Himself), both His foreknowledge and power, through which He might have prevented man's falling into danger when attempting wrongly to enjoy his liberty. Now, if He had interposed, He would have rescinded the liberty of man's will, which He had permitted with set purpose, and in goodness. But, suppose God had interposed; suppose Him to have abrogated man's liberty, by warning him from the tree, and keeping off the subtle serpent from his interview with the woman; would not Marcion then exclaim, What a frivolous, unstable, and faithless Lord, cancelling the gifts He had bestowed! Why did He allow any liberty of will, if He afterwards withdrew it? Why withdraw it after allowing it? Let Him choose where to brand Himself with error, either in His original constitution of man, or in His subsequent abrogation thereof! If He had checked (man's freedom), would He not then seem to have been rather deceived, through want of foresight into the future? But in giving it full scope, who would not say that He did so in ignorance of the issue of

2801 Salva.

2802 Gravitatem.

2803 Sed, for scilicet, not unfrequent with our author.

2804 That is, from the Marcionite position referred to in the second sentence of this chapter, in opposition to that of Tertullian which follows.

things? God, however, did foreknow that man would make a bad use of his created constitution; and yet what can be so worthy of God as His earnestness of purpose, and the truth of His created works, be they what they may? Man must see, if he failed to make the most of²⁸⁰⁵ the good gift he had received, how that he was himself guilty in respect of the law which he did not choose to keep, and not that the Lawgiver was committing a fraud against His own law, by not permitting its injunctions to be fulfilled. Whenever you are inclined to indulge in such censure²⁸⁰⁶ (and it is the most becoming for you) against the Creator, recall gently to your mind in His behalf²⁸⁰⁷ His earnestness, and endurance, and truth, in having given completeness²⁸⁰⁸ to His creatures both as rational and good.

2805 Si non bene dispunxisset.

2806 Peroraturus.

2807 Tibi insusurra pro Creatore.

2808 Functo.

Chapter VIII.—Man, Endued with Liberty, Superior to the Angels, Overcomes Even the Angel Which Lured Him to His Fall, When Repentant and Resuming Obedience to God.

For it was not merely that he might live the natural life that God had produced man, but²⁸⁰⁹ that he should live virtuously, that is, in relation to God and to His law. Accordingly, God gave him *to live* when he was formed into a living soul; but He charged him *to live virtuously* when he was required to obey a law. So also God shows that man was not constituted for death, by now wishing that he should be restored to life, preferring the sinner's repentance to his death.²⁸¹⁰ As, therefore, God designed for man a condition of life, so man brought on himself a state of death; and this, too, neither through infirmity nor through ignorance, so that no blame can be imputed to the Creator. No doubt it was an angel who was the seducer; but then the victim of that seduction was free, and master of himself; and as being the image and likeness of God, was stronger than any angel; and as being, too, the *afflatus* of the Divine Being, was nobler than that material spirit of which angels were made. *Who maketh, says he, His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.*²⁸¹¹ He would not have made all things subject to man, if he had been too weak for the dominion, and inferior to the angels, to whom He assigned no such subjects; nor would He have put the burden of law upon him, if he had been incapable of sustaining so great a weight; nor, again, would He have threatened with the penalty of death a creature whom He knew to be guiltless on the score of his helplessness: in short, if He had made him infirm, it would not have been by liberty and independence of will, but rather by the withholding from him these endowments. And thus it comes to pass, that even now also, the same human being, the same substance of his soul, the same condition as Adam's, is made conqueror over the same devil by the self-same liberty and power of his will, when it moves in obedience to the laws of God.²⁸¹²

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2809 Ut non, "as if he were not," etc.

2810 [Ezek. xviii. 23.](#)

2811 [Ps. civ. 4.](#)

2812 [On capp. viii. and ix. See Kaye's references in notes p. 178 *et seqq.*]

Chapter IX.—Another Cavil Answered, I.e., the Fall Imputable to God, Because Man's Soul is a Portion of the Spiritual Essence of the Creator. The Divine Afflatus Not in Fault in the Sin of Man, But the Human Will Which Was Additional to It.

But, you say, in what way soever the substance of the Creator is found to be susceptible of fault, when the *afflatus* of God, that is to say, the soul,²⁸¹³ offends in man, it cannot but be that that fault of the portion is referrible to the original whole. Now, to meet this objection, we must explain the nature²⁸¹⁴ of the soul. We must at the outset hold fast the meaning of the Greek scripture, which has *afflatus*, not spirit.²⁸¹⁵ Some interpreters of the Greek, without reflecting on the difference of the words, and careless about their exact meaning, put spirit for *afflatus*; they thus afford to heretics an opportunity of tarnishing²⁸¹⁶ the Spirit of God, that is to say, God Himself, with default. And now comes the question. *Afflatus*, observe then, is less than spirit, although it comes from spirit; it is the spirit's gentle breeze,²⁸¹⁷ but it is not the spirit. Now a breeze is rarer than the wind; and although it proceeds from wind, yet a breeze is not the wind. One may call a breeze the image of the spirit. In the same manner, man is the image of God, that is, of spirit; for God is spirit. *Afflatus* is therefore the image of the spirit. Now the image is not in any case equal to the very thing.²⁸¹⁸ It is one thing to be like the reality, and another thing to be the reality itself. So, although the *afflatus* is the image of the spirit, it is yet not possible to compare the image of God in such a way, that, because the reality—that is, the spirit, or in other words, the Divine Being—is faultless, therefore the *afflatus* also, that is to say, the image, ought not by any possibility to have done wrong. In this respect will the image be less than the reality, and the *afflatus* inferior to the spirit, in that, while it possesses beyond doubt the true lineaments of divinity, such as an immortal soul, freedom and its own mastery over itself, foreknowledge in a great degree,²⁸¹⁹ reasonableness, capacity of understanding and knowledge, it is even in these respects an image still, and never amounts to the actual power of Deity, nor to absolute exemption from

2813 Anima, for *animus*. This meaning seems required throughout this passage, where afterwards occurs the phrase *immortalis anima*.

2814 Qualitas.

2815 Πνοήν, not πνεῦμα; so the Vulgate has *spiraculum*, not *spiritum*. [Kaye (p. 247) again refers to Profr. Andrews Norton of Harvard for valuable remarks concerning the use of the word *spiritus* by the ancients. Evidences, Vol. III. p. 160, note 7.]

2816 Infuscandi.

2817 Aurulam.

2818 Veritati.

2819 Plerumque.

fault,—a property which is only conceded to God, that is, to the reality, and which is simply incompatible with an image. An image, although it may express all the lineaments of the reality, is yet wanting in its intrinsic power; it is destitute of motion. In like manner, the soul, the image of the spirit, is unable to express the simple power thereof, that is to say, its happy exemption from sinning.²⁸²⁰ Were it otherwise,²⁸²¹ it would not be soul, but spirit; not man, who received a soul, but God. Besides, to take another view of the matter,²⁸²² not everything which pertains to God will be regarded as God, so that you would not maintain that His *afflatus* was God, that is, exempt from fault, because it is the breath of God. And in an act of your own, such as blowing into a flute, you would not thereby make the flute human, although it was your own human breath which you breathed into it, precisely as God breathed of His own Spirit. In fact,²⁸²³ the Scripture, by expressly saying²⁸²⁴ that God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life, and that man became thereby a living soul, not a life-giving spirit, has distinguished that *soul* from the condition of the Creator. The work must necessarily be distinct from the workman, and it is inferior to him. The pitcher will not be the potter, although made by the potter; nor in like manner, will the *afflatus*, because made by the spirit, be on that account the spirit. The soul has often been called by the same name as the breath. You should also take care that no descent be made from the breath to a still lower quality. So you have granted (you say) the infirmity of the soul, which you denied before! Undoubtedly, when you demand for it an equality with God, that is, a freedom from fault, I contend that it is infirm. But when the comparison is challenged with an angel, I am compelled to maintain that the head over all things is the stronger of the two, to whom the angels are ministers,²⁸²⁵ who is destined to be the judge of angels,²⁸²⁶ if he shall stand fast in the law of God—an obedience which he refused at first. Now this disobedience²⁸²⁷ it was possible for the *afflatus* of God to commit: it was possible, but it was not proper. The *possibility* lay in its slenderness of nature, as being the breath and not the spirit; the *impropriety*, however, arose from its power of will, as being free, and not a slave. It was furthermore assisted by the warning against committing sin under the threat of incurring death, which was meant to be a support for its slender nature, and a direction for its liberty of choice. So that the soul can no longer appear to have sinned, because it has an affinity



2820 Non delinquendi felicitatem.

2821 Ceterum.

2822 Et alias autem.

2823 Denique.

2824 [Gen. ii. 7.](#)

2825 [Heb. i. 14.](#)

2826 [1 Cor. vi. 3.](#)

2827 Hoc ipsum, referring to the *noluit* of the preceding clause.

with God, that is to say, through the *afflatus*, but rather through that which was an addition to its nature, that is, through its free-will, which was indeed given to it by God in accordance with His purpose and reason, but recklessly employed²⁸²⁸ by man according as he chose. This, then, being the case, the entire course²⁸²⁹ of God's action is purged from all imputation to evil. For the liberty of the will will not retort its own wrong on Him by whom it was bestowed, but on him by whom it was improperly used. What is the evil, then, which you want to impute to the Creator? If it is man's sin, it will not be God's fault, because it is man's doing; nor is that Being to be regarded as the author of the sin, who turns out to be its forbidding, nay, its condemner. If death is the evil, death will not give the reproach of being its own author to Him who threatened it, but to him who despised it. For by his contempt he introduced it, which assuredly²⁸³⁰ would not have appeared had man not despised it.

2828 Agitatum.

2829 Dispositio.

2830 Utique.

Chapter X.—Another Cavil Met, I.e., the Devil Who Instigated Man to Sin Himself the Creature of God. Nay, the Primeval Cherub Only Was God’s Work. The Devilish Nature Superadded by Wilfulness. In Man’s Recovery the Devil is Vanquished in a Conflict on His Own Ground.

If, however, you choose to transfer the account²⁸³¹ of evil from man to the devil as the instigator of sin, and in this way, too, throw the blame on the Creator, inasmuch as He created the devil,—for He maketh those spiritual beings, the angels—then it will follow that²⁸³² what was made, that is to say, the angel, will belong to Him who made it; while that which was not made by God, even the devil, or accuser,²⁸³³ cannot but have been made by itself; and this by false detraction²⁸³⁴ from God: first, how that God had forbidden them to eat of every tree; then, with the pretence that they should not die if they ate; thirdly, as if God grudged them the property of divinity. Now, whence originated this malice of lying and deceit towards man, and slandering of God? Most certainly not from God, who made the angel good after the fashion of His good works. Indeed, before he became the devil, he stands forth the wisest of creatures; and²⁸³⁵ wisdom is no²⁸³⁶ evil. If you turn to the prophecy of Ezekiel, you will at once perceive that this angel was both by creation good and by choice corrupt. For in the person of the prince of Tyre it is said in reference to the devil: “Moreover, the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God: Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, perfect in beauty” (this belongs to him as the highest of the angels, the archangel, the wisest of all); “amidst the delights of the paradise of thy God wast thou born” (for it was there, where God had made the angels in a shape which resembled the figure of animals). “Every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, the topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle; and with gold hast thou filled thy barns and thy treasuries. From the day when thou wast created, when I set thee, a cherub, upon the holy mountain of God, thou wast in the midst of stones of fire, thou wast irreproachable in thy days, from the day of thy creation, until thine

2831 Elogium.

2832 Ergo.

2833 Delator.

2834 Deferendo, in reference to the word *delator*, our author’s synonyme for διάβολος.

2835 Nisi.

2836 Nisi.

iniquities were discovered. By the abundance of thy merchandise thou hast filled thy storehouses, and thou hast sinned,” etc.²⁸³⁷ This description, it is manifest, properly belongs to the transgression of the angel, and not to the prince’s: for none among human beings was either born in the paradise of God, not even Adam himself, who was rather translated thither; nor placed with a cherub upon God’s holy mountain, that is to say, in the heights of heaven, from which the Lord testifies that Satan fell; nor detained amongst the stones of fire, and the flashing rays of burning constellations, whence Satan was cast down like lightning.²⁸³⁸ No, it is none else than the very author of sin who was denoted in the person of a sinful man: he was once irreproachable, at the time of his creation, formed for good by God, as by the good Creator of irreproachable creatures, and adorned with every angelic glory, and associated with God, good with the Good; but afterwards of his own accord removed to evil. *From the day when thine iniquities,*²⁸³⁹ says he, *were discovered,*—attributing to him those injuries wherewith he injured man when he was expelled from his allegiance to God,—even from that time did he sin, when he propagated his sin, and thereby plied “the abundance of his merchandise,” that is, of his Wickedness, even the tale²⁸⁴⁰ of his transgressions, because he was himself as a spirit no less (than man) created, with the faculty of free-will. For God would in nothing fail to endow a being who was to be next to Himself with a liberty of this kind. Nevertheless, by precondemning him, God testified that he had departed from the condition²⁸⁴¹ of his created nature, through his own lusting after the wickedness which was spontaneously conceived within him; and at the same time, by conceding a permission for the operation of his designs, He acted consistently with the purpose of His own goodness, deferring the devil’s destruction for the self-same reason as He postponed the restitution of man. For He afforded room for a conflict, wherein man might crush his enemy with the same freedom of his will as had made him succumb to him (proving that the fault was all his own, not God’s), and so worthily recover his salvation by a victory; wherein also the devil might receive a more bitter punishment, through being vanquished by him whom he had previously injured; and wherein God might be discovered to be so much the more good, as waiting²⁸⁴² for man to return from his present life to a more glorious paradise, with a right to pluck of the tree of life.²⁸⁴³



2837 Ezek. xxviii. 11–16 (Sept.).

2838 Luke x. 18.

2839 Læsurae = “injuries.” Ἰαδικήματα ἔν σοι—*Iniquitates in te.*—Hieron.

2840 Censum.

2841 Forma.

2842 Sustinens.

2843 [Kaye. p. 313.]

Chapter XI.—If, After Man's Sin, God Exercised His Attribute of Justice and Judgment, This Was Compatible with His Goodness, and Enhances the True Idea of the Perfection of God's Character.

Up to the fall of man, therefore, from the beginning God was simply good; after that He became a judge both severe and, as the Marcionites will have it, cruel. Woman is at once condemned to bring forth in sorrow, and to serve her husband,²⁸⁴⁴ although before she had heard without pain the increase of her race proclaimed with the blessing, *Increase and multiply*, and although she had been destined to be a help and not a slave to her male partner. Immediately the earth is also cursed,²⁸⁴⁵ which before was blessed. Immediately spring up briars and thorns, where once had grown grass, and herbs, and fruitful trees. Immediately arise sweat and labour for bread, where previously on every tree was yielded spontaneous food and untilled²⁸⁴⁶ nourishment. Thenceforth it is “man *to the ground*,” and not as before, “*from the ground*”; *to death* thenceforth, but before, *to life*; thenceforth with coats of skins, but before, nakedness without a blush. Thus God's prior goodness was from²⁸⁴⁷ nature, His subsequent severity from²⁸⁴⁸ a cause. The one was innate, the other accidental; the one His own, the other adapted;²⁸⁴⁹ the one issuing from Him, the other admitted by Him. But then *nature* could not have rightly permitted His goodness to have gone on inoperative, nor the *cause* have allowed His severity to have escaped in disguise or concealment. God provided the one for Himself, the other for the occasion.²⁸⁵⁰ You should now set about showing also that the position of a judge is allied with evil, who have been dreaming of another god as a purely good one—solely because you cannot *understand the Deity to be* a judge; although we have proved God to be also a judge. Or if not a judge, at any rate a perverse and useless originator of a discipline which is not to be vindicated—in other words, not to be judged. You do not, however, disprove God's being a judge, who have no proof to show that He is a judge. You will undoubtedly have to accuse justice herself, which provides the judge, or else to reckon her among the species of evil, that is, to add injustice to the titles of goodness. But then justice is an evil, if injustice is a good. And yet you are forced to declare injustice to be one of the worst of things, and by the same rule are constrained to class justice amongst the most excellent. Since there is nothing hostile²⁸⁵¹ to evil which is not good, and no enemy

2844 [Gen. iii. 16.](#)

2845 [Gen. iii. 18.](#)

2846 *Secura.*

2847 *Secundum.*

2848 *Secundum.*

2849 *Accommodata.*

2850 *Rei.*

2851 *Æmulum.*

of good which is not evil. It follows, then, that as injustice is an evil, so in the same degree is justice a good. Nor should it be regarded as simply a species of goodness, but as the practical observance²⁸⁵² of it, because goodness (unless justice be so controlled as to be just) will not be goodness, if it be unjust. For nothing is good which is unjust; while everything, on the other hand, which is just is good.

Chapter XII.—The Attributes of Goodness and Justice Should Not Be Separated.
They are Compatible in the True God. The Function of Justice in the Divine
Being Described.

Since, therefore, there is this union and agreement between goodness and justice, you cannot prescribe²⁸⁵³ their separation. With what face will you determine the separation of your two Gods, regarding in their separate condition one as distinctively the good God, and the other as distinctively the just God? Where the just is, there also exists the good. In short, from the very first the Creator was both good and also just. And both His attributes advanced together. His goodness created, His justice arranged, the world; and in this process it even then decreed that the world should be formed of good materials, because it took counsel with goodness. The work of justice is apparent, in the separation which was pronounced between light and darkness, between day and night, between heaven and earth, between the water above and the water beneath, between the gathering together of the sea and the mass of the dry land, between the greater lights and the lesser, between the luminaries of the day and those of the night, between male and female, between the tree of knowledge of death and of life, between the world and paradise, between the aqueous and the earth-born animals. As goodness conceived all things, so did justice discriminate them. With the determination of the latter, everything was arranged and set in order. Every site and quality²⁸⁵⁴ of the elements, their effect, motion, and state, the rise and setting of each, are the judicial determinations of the Creator. Do not suppose that His function as a judge must be defined as beginning when evil began, and so tarnish His justice with the cause of evil. By such considerations, then, do we show that this attribute advanced in company with goodness, the author²⁸⁵⁵ of all things,—worthy of being herself, too, deemed innate and natural, and not as accidentally accruing²⁸⁵⁶ to God, inasmuch as she was found to be in Him, her Lord, the arbiter of His works.

2853 Cavere. This is Oehler's reading, and best suits the sense of the passage and the style of our author.

2854 Habitus.

2855 Auctrice.

2856 Obventiciam.

Chapter XIII.—Further Description of the Divine Justice; Since the Fall of Man It Has Regulated the Divine Goodness. God's Claims on Our Love and Our Fear Reconciled.

But yet, when evil afterwards broke out, and the goodness of God began now to have an adversary to contend against, God's justice also acquired another function, even that of directing His goodness according to men's application for it.²⁸⁵⁷ And this is the result: the divine goodness, being interrupted in that free course whereby God was spontaneously good, is now dispensed according to the deserts of every man; it is offered to the worthy, denied to the unworthy, taken away from the unthankful, and also avenged on all its enemies. Thus the entire office of justice in this respect becomes an agency²⁸⁵⁸ for goodness: whatever it condemns by its judgment, whatever it chastises by its condemnation, whatever (to use your phrase) it ruthlessly pursues,²⁸⁵⁹ it, in fact, benefits with good instead of injuring. Indeed, the fear of judgment contributes to good, not to evil. For good, now contending with an enemy, was not strong enough to recommend itself²⁸⁶⁰ by itself alone. At all events, if it could do *so much*, it could not keep its ground; for it had lost its impregnability through the foe, unless some power of fear supervened, such as might compel the very unwilling to seek after good, and take care of it. But who, when so many incentives to evil were assailing him, would desire that good, which he could despise with impunity? Who, again, would take care of what he could lose without danger? You read how broad is the road to evil,²⁸⁶¹ how thronged in comparison with the opposite: would not all glide down that road were there nothing in it to fear? We dread the Creator's tremendous threats, and yet scarcely turn away from evil. What, if He threatened not? Will you call this justice an evil, when it is all unfavourable to evil? Will you deny it to be a good, when it has its eye towards²⁸⁶² good? What sort of being ought you to wish God to be? Would it be right to prefer that He should be such, that sins might flourish under Him, and the devil make mock at Him? Would you suppose Him to be a good God, who should be able to make a man worse by security in sin? Who is the author of good, but He who also requires it? In like manner who is a stranger to evil, except Him who is its enemy? Who its enemy, besides Him who is its conqueror? Who else its conqueror, than He who is its punisher? Thus God is wholly good, because in all things He is on the side of good. In fact, He is omnipotent, because able both to help and

2857 Secundum adversionem.

2858 Procuratio.

2859 Sævit.

2860 Commendari.

2861 [Matt. vii. 13.](#)

2862 Prospicit.

to hurt. Merely to profit is a comparatively small matter, because it can do nothing else than a good turn. From such a conduct²⁸⁶³ with what confidence can I hope for good, if this is its only ability? How can I follow after the reward of innocence, if I have no regard to the requital of wrong-doing? I must needs have my doubts whether he might not fail in recompensing one or other alternative, who was unequal in his resources to meet both. Thus far, then, justice is the very fulness of the Deity Himself, manifesting God as both a perfect father and a perfect master: a father in His mercy, a master in His discipline; a father in the mildness of His power, a master in its severity; a father who must be loved with dutiful affection, a master who must needs be feared; be loved, because He prefers mercy to sacrifice;²⁸⁶⁴ be feared because He dislikes sin; be loved, because He prefers the sinner's repentance to his death;²⁸⁶⁵ be feared, because He dislikes the sinners who do not repent. Accordingly, the divine law enjoins duties in respect of both these attributes: *Thou shalt love God*, and, *Thou shalt fear God*. It proposed one for the obedient man, the other for the transgressor.²⁸⁶⁶

2863 De ejusmodi.

2864 Hos. vi. 6.

2865 Ezek. xxxiii. 11.

2866 Matt. xxii. 37 f.

Chapter XIV.—Evil of Two Kinds, Penal and Criminal. It is Not of the Latter Sort that God is the Author, But Only of the Former, Which are Penal, and Included in His Justice.

On all occasions does God meet you: it is He who smites, but also heals; who kills, but also makes alive; who humbles, and yet exalts; who “creates²⁸⁶⁷ evil,” but also “makes peace;”²⁸⁶⁸—so that from these very (contrasts of His providence) I may get an answer to the heretics. Behold, they say, how He acknowledges Himself to be the creator of evil in the passage, “It is I who create evil.” They take a word whose one form reduces to confusion and ambiguity two kinds of evils (because both sins and punishments are called *evils*), and will have Him in every passage to be understood as the creator of all evil things, in order that He may be designated the author of evil. We, on the contrary, distinguish between the two meanings of the word in question, and, by separating evils of sin from penal evils, *mala culpæ* from *mala pœnæ*, confine to each of the two classes its own author,—the devil as the author of the sinful evils (*culpæ*), and God as the creator of penal evils (*pœnæ*); so that the one class shall be accounted as morally bad, and the other be classed as the operations of justice passing penal sentences against the evils of sin. Of the latter class of evils which are compatible with justice, God is therefore avowedly the creator. They are, no doubt, evil to those by whom they are endured, but still on their own account good, as being just and defensive of good and hostile to sin. In this respect they are, moreover, worthy of God. Else prove them to be unjust, in order to show them deserving of a place in the sinful class, that is to say, evils of injustice; because if they turn out to belong to justice, they will be no longer evil things, but good—evil only to the bad, by whom even directly good things are condemned as evil. In this case, you must decide that man, although the wilful contemner of the divine law, unjustly bore the doom which he would like to have escaped; that the wickedness of those days was unjustly smitten by the deluge, afterwards by the fire (of Sodom); that Egypt, although most depraved and superstitious, and, worse still, the harasser of its guest-population,²⁸⁶⁹ was unjustly stricken with the chastisement of its ten plagues. *God* hardens the heart of Pharaoh. He deserved, however, to be influenced²⁸⁷⁰ to his destruction, who had already denied God, already in his pride so often rejected His ambassadors, accumulated heavy burdens on His people, and (to sum up all) as an Egyptian, had long been guilty before

2867 Condens.

2868 See *Isa. xlv. 7*.

2869 *Hospitis populi conflictatricem.*

2870 *Subministrari.* In *Apol. ii.*, the verb *ministrare* is used to indicate Satan’s power in influencing men. [The translator here corrects his own word *seduced* and I have substituted his better word *influenced*. The Lord gave him over to Satan’s influence.]

God of Gentile idolatry, worshipping the ibis and the crocodile in preference to the living God. Even His own people did God visit in their ingratitude.²⁸⁷¹ Against young lads, too, did He send forth bears, for their irreverence to the prophet.²⁸⁷²



2871 [Num. xi. and xxi.](#)

2872 [2 Kings ii. 23, 24.](#) [See notes 4, 5, 9, following.]

Chapter XV.—The Severity of God Compatible with Reason and Justice. When Inflicted, Not Meant to Be Arbitrary, But Remedial.

Consider well,²⁸⁷³ then, before all things the justice of the Judge; and if its purpose²⁸⁷⁴ be clear, then the severity thereof, and the operations of the severity in its course, will appear compatible with reason and justice. Now, that we may not linger too long on the point, (I would challenge you to) assert the other reasons also, that you may condemn *the Judge's* sentences; extenuate the delinquencies of the sinner, that you may blame his judicial conviction. Never mind censuring the Judge; rather prove Him to be an unjust one. Well, then, even though²⁸⁷⁵ He required the sins of the fathers at the hands of the children, the hardness of the people made such remedial measures necessary²⁸⁷⁶ for them, in order that, having their posterity in view, they might obey the divine law. For who is there that feels not a greater care for his children than for himself? Again, if the blessing of the fathers was destined likewise for their offspring, previous to²⁸⁷⁷ any merit on the part of these, why might not the guilt of the fathers also redound to their children? As was the grace, so was the offence; so that the grace and the offence equally ran down through the whole race, with the reservation, indeed, of that subsequent ordinance by which it became possible to refrain from saying, that “the fathers had eaten a sour grape, and the children’s teeth were set on edge.”²⁸⁷⁸ in other words, that the father should not bear the iniquity of the son, nor the son the iniquity of the father, but that every man should be chargeable with his own sin; so that the harshness of the law having been reduced²⁸⁷⁹ after the hardness of the people, justice was no longer to judge *the race*, but individuals. If, however, you accept the gospel of truth, you will discover on whom recoils the sentence of the Judge, when requiting on sons the sins of their fathers, even on those who had been (hardened enough) to imprecate spontaneously on themselves this condemnation: “His blood be on us, and on our children.”²⁸⁸⁰ *This*, therefore, the providence of God has ordered throughout its course,²⁸⁸¹ even as it had heard it.

2873 Dispice.

2874 Ratio.

2875 Nam et si.

2876 Compulerat.

2877 Sine adhuc.

2878 [Jer. xxxi. 29.](#)

2879 Edomita, cf. chap. xix. *sub init.* and xxix.

2880 [Matt. xxvii. 25.](#)

2881 Omnis providentia.

Chapter XVI.—To the Severity of God There Belong Accessory Qualities, Compatible with Justice. If Human Passions are Predicated of God, They Must Not Be Measured on the Scale of Human Imperfection.

Even His severity then is good, because just: when the judge is good, that is just. Other qualities likewise are good, by means of which the good work of a good severity runs out its course, whether wrath, or jealousy,²⁸⁸² or sternness.²⁸⁸³ For all these are as indispensable²⁸⁸⁴ to severity as severity is to justice. The shamelessness of an age, which ought to have been reverent, had to be avenged. Accordingly, qualities which pertain to the judge, when they are actually free from blame, as the judge himself is, will never be able to be charged upon him as a fault.²⁸⁸⁵ What would be said, if, when you thought the doctor necessary, you were to find fault with his instruments, because they cut, or cauterize, or amputate, or tighten; whereas there could be no doctor of any value without his professional tools? Censure, if you please, the practitioner who cuts badly, amputates clumsily, is rash in his cautery; and even blame his implements as rough tools of his art. Your conduct is equally unreasonable,²⁸⁸⁶ when you allow indeed that God is a judge, but at the same time destroy those operations and dispositions by which He discharges His judicial functions. We are taught²⁸⁸⁷ God by the prophets, and by Christ, not by the philosophers nor by Epicurus. We who believe that God really lived on earth, and took upon Him the low estate of human form,²⁸⁸⁸ for the purpose of man's salvation, are very far from thinking as those do who refuse to believe that God cares for²⁸⁸⁹ anything. Whence has found its way to the heretics an argument of this kind: If God is angry, and jealous, and roused, and grieved, He must therefore be corrupted, and must therefore die. Fortunately, however, it is a part of the creed of Christians even to believe that God did die,²⁸⁹⁰ and yet that He is alive for evermore. Superlative is their folly, who prejudge divine things from human; so that, because in man's corrupt condition there are found passions of this description, therefore there must be deemed to exist in God also sensations²⁸⁹¹ of the same kind. Discriminate between the

2882 Æmulatio.

2883 Sævitia.

2884 Debita.

2885 Exprobrari.

2886 Proinde est enim.

2887 Erudimur.

2888 Habitus.

2889 Curare.

2890 [See Vol. II. p. 71 (this series), for an early example of this *Communicatio idiomatum*.]

2891 Status.

natures, and assign to them their respective senses, which are as diverse as their natures require, although they seem to have a community of designations. We read, indeed, of God's right hand, and eyes, and feet: these must not, however, be compared with those of human beings, because they are associated in one and the same name. Now, as great as shall be the difference between the divine and the human body, although their members pass under identical names, so great will also be the diversity between the divine and the human soul, notwithstanding that their sensations are designated by the same names. These sensations in the human being are rendered just as corrupt by the corruptibility of man's substance, as in God they are rendered incorruptible by the incorruption of the divine essence. Do you really believe the Creator to be God? By all means, is your reply. How then do you suppose that in God there is anything human, and not that all is divine? Him whom you do not deny to be God, you confess to be not human; because, when you confess Him to be God, you have, in fact, already determined that He is undoubtedly diverse from every sort of human conditions. Furthermore, although you allow, with others,²⁸⁹² that man was in-breathed by God into a living soul, not God by man, it is yet palpably absurd of you to be placing human characteristics in God rather than divine ones in man, and clothing God in the likeness of man, instead of man in the image of God. And this, therefore, is to be deemed the likeness of God in man, that the human soul have the same emotions and sensations as God, although they are not of the same kind; differing as they do both in their conditions and their issues according to their nature. Then, again, with respect to the opposite sensations,—I mean meekness, patience, mercy, and the very parent of them all, goodness,—why do you form your opinion of²⁸⁹³ the divine displays of these (from the human qualities)? For we indeed do not possess them in perfection, because it is God alone who is perfect. So also in regard to those others,—namely, anger and irritation, we are not affected by them in so happy a manner, because God alone is truly happy, by reason of His property of incorruptibility. Angry He will possibly be, but not irritated, nor dangerously tempted;²⁸⁹⁴ He will be moved, but not subverted.²⁸⁹⁵ All appliances He must needs use, because of all contingencies; as many sensations as there are causes: anger because of the wicked, and indignation because of the ungrateful, and jealousy because of the proud, and whatsoever else is a hinderance to the evil. So, again, mercy on account of the erring, and patience on account of the impenitent, and pre-eminent resources²⁸⁹⁶ on account of the meritorious, and whatsoever is necessary to the good. All these affections He is moved by in that peculiar

2892 Pariter.

2893 Præsumitis. [So of generation, Sonship, etc.]

2894 Periclitabitur.

2895 Evertetur.

2896 Præstantiam, "Qua scilicet præstat præmia vel supplicia" (Rigalt.).

manner of His own, in which it is profoundly fit²⁸⁹⁷ that He should be affected; and it is owing to Him that man is also similarly affected in a way which is equally his own.

Chapter XVII.—Trace God's Government in History and in His Precepts, and You Will Find It Full of His Goodness.

These considerations show that the entire order of God as Judge is an operative one, and (that I may express myself in worthier words) protective of His Catholic²⁸⁹⁸ and supreme goodness, which, removed as it is from judiciary emotions, and pure in its own condition, the Marcionites refuse to acknowledge to be in one and the same Deity, “raining on the just and on the unjust, and making His sun to rise on the evil and on the good,”²⁸⁹⁹—a bounty which no other god at all exercises. It is true that Marcion has been bold enough to erase from the gospel this testimony of Christ to the Creator; but yet the world itself is inscribed *with the goodness of its Maker*, and the inscription is read by each man's conscience. Nay, this very long-suffering of the Creator will tend to the condemnation of Marcion; that patience, (I mean,) which waits for the sinner's repentance rather than his death, which prefers mercy to sacrifice,²⁹⁰⁰ averting from the Ninevites the ruin which had been already denounced against them,²⁹⁰¹ and vouchsafing to Hezekiah's tears an extension of his life,²⁹⁰² and restoring his kingly state to the monarch of Babylon after his complete repentance;²⁹⁰³ that mercy, too, which conceded to the devotion of the people the son of Saul when about to die,²⁹⁰⁴ and gave free forgiveness to David on his confessing his sins against the house of Uriah;²⁹⁰⁵ which also restored the house of Israel as often as it condemned it, and addressed to it consolation no less frequently than reproof. Do not therefore look at God simply as Judge, but turn your attention also to examples of His conduct as the Most Good.²⁹⁰⁶ Noting Him, as you do, when He takes vengeance, consider Him likewise when He shows mercy.²⁹⁰⁷ In the scale, against His severity place His gentleness. When you shall have discovered both qualities to co-exist in the Creator, you will find in Him that very circumstance which induces you to think there is another God. Lastly, come and examine into His doctrine, discipline, precepts, and counsels. You will perhaps say that there are equally good prescriptions in human laws. But Moses and God existed before all your Lycurguses



2898 *Catholic*, because diffused throughout creation (Pamelius).

2899 *Matt. v. 45*. T. predicts this (by the word *pluentem*) strictly of the “goodness” of God, the *quam*.

2900 *Hos. vi. 6*.

2901 *Jonah iii. 10*.

2902 *2 Kings xx. i*.

2903 *Dan. iv. 33*.

2904 *1 Sam. xiv. 45*.

2905 *2 Sam. xii. 13*.

2906 *Optimi*.

2907 *Indulget*.

and Solons. There is not one after-age²⁹⁰⁸ which does not take from primitive sources. At any rate, my Creator did not learn from your God to issue such commandments as: Thou shalt not kill; thou shalt not commit adultery; thou shalt not steal; thou shalt not bear false witness; thou shalt not covet what is thy neighbour's; honour thy father and thy mother; and, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. To these prime counsels of innocence, chastity, and justice, and piety, are also added prescriptions of humanity, as when every seventh year slaves are released for liberty;²⁹⁰⁹ when at the same period the land is spared from tillage; a place is also granted to the needy; and from the treading ox's mouth the muzzle is removed, for the enjoyment of the fruit of his labour before him, in order that kindness first shown in the case of animals might be raised from such rudiments²⁹¹⁰ to the refreshment²⁹¹¹ of men.

2908 Posteritas.

2909 [Lev. xxv. 4](#), etc.

2910 Erudiretur.

2911 Refrigeria. [[1 Cor. ix. 10.](#)]

Chapter XVIII.—Some of God's Laws Defended as Good, Which the Marcionites Impeached, Such as the Lex Talionis. Useful Purposes in a Social and Moral Point of View of This, and Sundry Other Enactments.

But what parts of the law can I defend as good with a greater confidence than those which heresy has shown such a longing for?—as the statute of retaliation, requiring eye for eye, tooth for tooth, and stripe for stripe.²⁹¹² Now there is not here any smack of a permission to mutual injury; but rather, on the whole, a provision for restraining violence. To a people which was very obdurate, and wanting in faith towards God, it might seem tedious, and even incredible, to expect from God that vengeance which was subsequently to be declared by the prophet: “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”²⁹¹³ Therefore, in the meanwhile, the commission of wrong was to be checked²⁹¹⁴ by the fear of a retribution immediately to happen; and so the permission of this retribution was to be the prohibition of provocation, that a stop might thus be put to all hot-blooded²⁹¹⁵ injury, whilst by the permission of the second the first is prevented by fear, and by this deterring of the first the second fails to be committed. By the same law another result is also obtained,²⁹¹⁶ even the more ready kindling of the fear of retaliation by reason of the very savour of passion which is in it. There is no more bitter thing, than to endure the very suffering which you have inflicted upon others. When, again, the law took somewhat away from men's food, by pronouncing unclean certain animals which were once blessed, you should understand this to be a measure for encouraging continence, and recognise in it a bridle imposed on that appetite which, while eating angels' food, craved after the cucumbers and melons of the Egyptians. Recognise also therein a precaution against those companions of the appetite, even lust and luxury, which are usually chilled by the chastening of the appetite.²⁹¹⁷ For “the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.”²⁹¹⁸ Furthermore, that an eager wish for money might be restrained, so far as it is caused by the need of food, the desire for costly meat and drink was taken out of their power. Lastly, in order that man might be more readily educated by God for fasting, he was accustomed to such articles of food as were neither plentiful nor sumptuous, and not likely to pamper the appetite of the luxurious. Of course the Creator deserved all the greater blame, because it was from His own people

2912 Ex. xxi. 24.

2913 Deut. xxxii. 35; Rom. xii. 19.

2914 Repastinaretur.

2915 Æstuata.

2916 Qua et alias.

2917 Ventris.

2918 Ex. xxxii. 6.

that He took away food, rather than from the more ungrateful Marcionites. As for the burdensome sacrifices also, and the troublesome scrupulousness of their ceremonies²⁹¹⁹ and oblations, no one should blame them, as if God specially required them for Himself: for He plainly asks, “To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me?” and, “Who hath required them at your hand?”²⁹²⁰ But he should see herein a careful provision²⁹²¹ on God’s part, which showed His wish to bind to His own religion a people who were prone to idolatry and transgression by that kind of services wherein consisted the superstition of that period; that He might call them away therefrom, while requesting it to be performed to Himself, as if He desired that no sin should be committed in making idols.



2919 Operationes.

2920 [Isa. i. 11, 12.](#)

2921 Industriam.

Chapter XIX.—The Minute Prescriptions of the Law Meant to Keep the People Dependent on God. The Prophets Sent by God in Pursuance of His Goodness. Many Beautiful Passages from Them Quoted in Illustration of This Attribute.

But even in the common transactions of life, and of human intercourse at home and in public, even to the care of the smallest vessels, He in every possible manner made distinct arrangement; in order that, when they everywhere encountered these legal instructions, they might not be at any moment out of the sight of God. For what could better tend to make a man happy, than having “his delight in the law of the Lord?” “In that law would he meditate day and night.”²⁹²² It was not in severity that its Author promulgated this law, but in the interest of the highest benevolence, which rather aimed at subduing²⁹²³ the nation’s hardness of heart, and by laborious services hewing out a fealty which was (as yet) untried in obedience: for I purposely abstain from touching on the mysterious senses of the law, considered in its spiritual and prophetic relation, and as abounding in types of almost every variety and sort. It is enough at present, that it simply bound a man to God, so that no one ought to find fault with it, except him who does not choose to serve God. To help forward this beneficent, not onerous, purpose of the law, the prophets were also ordained by the self-same goodness of God, teaching precepts worthy of God, how that men should “cease to do evil, learn to do well, seek judgment, judge the fatherless,²⁹²⁴ and plead for the widow:”²⁹²⁵ be fond of the divine expostulations:²⁹²⁶ avoid contact with the wicked:²⁹²⁷ “let the oppressed go free:”²⁹²⁸ dismiss the unjust sentence,²⁹²⁹ “deal their bread to the hungry; bring the outcast into their house; cover the naked, when they see him; nor hide themselves from their own flesh and kin:”²⁹³⁰ “keep their tongue from evil, and their lips from speaking guile: depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it:”²⁹³¹ be angry, and sin not; that is, not persevere in anger, or be enraged:²⁹³² “walk not in the counsel of the ungodly; nor stand in the way of sinners; nor sit in the seat of the scornful.”²⁹³³ Where then? “Behold,

2922 Ps. i. 2.

2923 Edomantis, cf. chap. xv. *sub fin.* and xxix.

2924 Pupillo.

2925 Isa. i. 16, 17.

2926 Quæstiones, alluding to Isa. i. 18: δεῦτε καὶ διαλεχθῶμεν, λέγει Κύριος.

2927 Alluding to Isa. lviii. 6: “Loose the bands of wickedness.”

2928 Isa. lviii. 6.

2929 A lax quotation, perhaps, of the next clause in the same verse: “Break every yoke.”

2930 Isa. lviii. 7, slightly changed from the second to the third person.

2931 Ps. xxxiv. 13, 14.

2932 Comp. Ps. iv. 4.

2933 Ps. i. 1.

how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity;²⁹³⁴ meditating (as they do) day and night in the law of the Lord, because “it is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man; better to hope in the Lord than in man.”²⁹³⁵ For what recompense shall man receive from God? “He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”²⁹³⁶ “He that hath clean hands and a pure heart, who hath not taken God’s name in vain, nor sworn deceitfully to his neighbour, he shall receive blessing from the Lord, and mercy from the God of his salvation.”²⁹³⁷ “For the eyes of the Lord are upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy, to deliver their souls from death,” even eternal death, “and to nourish them in their hunger,” that is, after eternal life.²⁹³⁸ “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth them out of them all.”²⁹³⁹ “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”²⁹⁴⁰ “The Lord keepeth all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.”²⁹⁴¹ The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants.²⁹⁴² We have adduced these few quotations from a mass of the Creator’s Scriptures; and no more, I suppose, are wanted to prove Him to be a most good God, for they sufficiently indicate both the precepts of His goodness and the first-fruits²⁹⁴³ thereof.

2934 Ps. cxxxiii. 1.

2935 Ps. cxviii. 4.

2936 Ps. i. 3.

2937 Ps. xxiv. 4, 5. He has slightly misquoted the passage.

2938 Ps. xxxiii. 18, 19, slightly altered.

2939 Ps. xxxiv. 19.

2940 Ps. cxvi. 15.

2941 Ps. xxxiv. 20, modified.

2942 Ps. xxxiv. 22.

2943 Præmissa.

Chapter XX.—The Marcionites Charged God with Having Instigated the Hebrews to Spoil the Egyptians. Defence of the Divine Dispensation in that Matter.

But these “saucy cuttles”²⁹⁴⁴ (of heretics) under the figure of whom the law about things to be eaten²⁹⁴⁵ prohibited this very kind of piscatory aliment, as soon as they find themselves confuted, eject the black venom of their blasphemy, and so spread about in all directions the object which (as is now plain) they severally have in view, when they put forth such assertions and protestations as shall obscure and tarnish the rekindled light²⁹⁴⁶ of the Creator’s bounty. We will, however, follow their wicked design, even through these black clouds, and drag to light their tricks of dark calumny, laying to the Creator’s charge with especial emphasis the fraud and theft of gold and silver which the Hebrews were commanded by Him to practise against the Egyptians. Come, unhappy heretic, I cite even you as a witness; first look at the case of the two nations, and then you will form a judgment of the Author of the command. The Egyptians put in a claim on the Hebrews for these gold and silver vessels.²⁹⁴⁷ The Hebrews assert a counter claim, alleging that by the bond²⁹⁴⁸ of their respective fathers, attested by the written engagement of both parties, there were due to them the arrears of that laborious slavery of theirs, for the bricks they had so painfully made, and the cities and palaces²⁹⁴⁹ which they had built. What shall be your verdict, you discoverer²⁹⁵⁰ of the most good God? That the Hebrews must admit the fraud, or the Egyptians the compensation? For they maintain that thus has the question been settled by the advocates on both sides,²⁹⁵¹

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2944 *Sepiæ isti*. Pliny, in his *Nat. Hist.* ix. 29, says: “The males of the cuttles kind are spotted with sundry colours more dark and blackish, yes, and more firme and steady, than the female. If the female be smitted with the trout-speare, they will come to succour her; but she again is not so kind to them: for if the male be stricken, she will not stand to it, but runs away. But both of them, if they perceive that they be taken in such streights that they cannot escape, shed from them a certain black humor like to ink; and when the water therewith is troubled and made duskish, therein they hide themselves, and are no more seen” (Holland’s *Translation*, p. 250). Our epithet “saucy cuttle” comes from Shakespeare, *2 Henry iv* 2, 4, where, however, the word seems employed in a different sense.

2945 *Deut. xiv.*

2946 Relucentem, “rekindled” by the confutation.

2947 *Vasa* = the jewels and the raiment mentioned in *Ex. iii. 22.*

2948 *Nomine*. [Here our author exhibits his tact as a jurisconsult.]

2949 *Villis*.

2950 *Elector*.

2951 For a discussion of the spoiling of the Egyptians by the Israelites, the reader is referred to Calmet’s *Commentary*, on *Ex. iii. 22*, where he adduces, besides this passage of Tertullian, the opinions of Irenæus, *adv. Hæres.* iv. 49; Augustine, *contra Faust.* ii. 71; Theodoret, *Quæst. in Exod.* xxiii.; Clement of Alex. *Stromat.* i. 1; of Philo, *De Vita Moysis*, i.; Josephus, *Antiqq.* ii. 8, who says that “the Egyptians freely gave all to the Israelites;”

of the Egyptians demanding their vessels, and the Hebrews claiming the requital of their labours. But for all they say,²⁹⁵² the Egyptians justly renounced their restitution-claim then and there; while the Hebrews to this day, in spite of the Marcionites, re-assert their demand for even greater damages,²⁹⁵³ insisting that, however large was their loan of the gold and silver, it would not be compensation enough, even if the labour of six hundred thousand men should be valued at only “a farthing”²⁹⁵⁴ a day a piece. Which, however, were the more in number—those who claimed the vessel, or those who dwelt in the palaces and cities? Which, too, the greater—the grievance of the Egyptians against the Hebrews, or “the favour”²⁹⁵⁵ which they displayed towards them? Were free men reduced to servile labour, in order that the Hebrews might simply proceed against the Egyptians by action at law for injuries; or in order that their officers might on their benches sit and exhibit their backs and shoulders shamefully mangled by the fierce application of the scourge? It was not by a few plates and cup—in all cases the property, no doubt, of still fewer rich men—that any one would pronounce that compensation should have been awarded to the Hebrews, but both by all the resources of these and by the contributions of all the people.²⁹⁵⁶ If, therefore, the case of the Hebrews be a good one, the Creator’s case must likewise be a good one; that is to say, his command, when He both made the Egyptians unconsciously grateful, and also gave His own people their discharge in full²⁹⁵⁷ at the time of their migration by the scanty comfort of a tacit requital of *their long servitude*. It was plainly less than their due which He commanded to be exacted. The Egyptians ought to have given back their men-children²⁹⁵⁸ also to the Hebrews.

of Melchior Canus, *Loc. Theoll.* i. 4. He also refers to the book of Wisdom, x. 17–20. These all substantially agree with our author. See also a full discussion in Selden, *De Jure Nat. et Gentium*, vii. 8, who quotes from the Gemara, *Sanhedrin*, c. ii. f. 91a; and *Bereshith Rabba*, par. 61 f., 68, col. 2, where such a tribunal as Tertullian refers to is mentioned as convened by Alexander the Great, who, after hearing the pleadings, gave his assent to the claims of the advocates of Israel.

2952 Tamen.

2953 Amplius.

2954 Singulis nummis. [Clem. Alex. *Strom.* i. 23. Vol. II., p. 336, *supra*.]

2955 Gratia Hebræorum, either a reference to *Ex. iii. 21*, or meaning, perhaps, “the unpaid services of the Hebrews.”

2956 Popularium omnium.

2957 Expunxit.

2958 *Ex. i. 18, 22*. [An ingenious and eloquent defence.]

Chapter XXI.—The Law of the Sabbath-Day Explained. The Eight Days' Procession Around Jericho. The Gathering of Sticks a Violation.

Similarly on other points also, you reproach Him with fickleness and instability for contradictions in His commandments, such as that He forbade work to be done on Sabbath-days, and yet at the siege of Jericho ordered the ark to be carried round the walls during eight days; in other words, of course, actually on a Sabbath. You do not, however, consider the law of the Sabbath: they are human works, not divine, which it prohibits.²⁹⁵⁹ For it says, “Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work.” What work? Of course your own. The conclusion is, that from the Sabbath-day He removes those works which He had before enjoined for the six days, that is, your own works; in other words, human works of daily life. Now, the carrying around of the ark is evidently not an ordinary daily duty, nor yet a human one; but a rare and a sacred work, and, as being then ordered by the direct precept of God, a divine one. And I might fully explain what this signified, were it not a tedious process to open out the forms²⁹⁶⁰ of all the Creator's proofs, which you would, moreover, probably refuse to allow. It is more to the point, if you be confuted on plain matters²⁹⁶¹ by the simplicity of truth rather than curious reasoning. Thus, in the present instance, there is a clear distinction respecting the Sabbath's prohibition of human labours, not divine ones. Accordingly, the man who went and gathered sticks on the Sabbath-day was punished with death. For it was his own work which he did; and this²⁹⁶² the law forbade. They, however, who on the Sabbath carried the ark round Jericho, did it with impunity. For it was not their own work, but God's, which they executed, and that too, from His express commandment.



2959 Ex. xx. 9, 10.

2960 Figuras.

2961 De absolutis.

2962 [He was not punished for gathering sticks, but for setting an example of contempt of the Divine Law.]

Chapter XXII.—The Brazen Serpent and the Golden Cherubim Were Not Violations of the Second Commandment. Their Meaning.

Likewise, when forbidding the similitude to be made of all things which are in heaven, and in earth, and in the waters, He declared also the reasons, as being prohibitory of all material exhibition²⁹⁶³ of a latent²⁹⁶⁴ idolatry. For He adds: “Thou shalt not bow down to them, nor serve them.” The form, however, of the brazen serpent which the Lord afterwards commanded Moses to make, afforded no pretext²⁹⁶⁵ for idolatry, but was meant for the cure of those who were plagued with the fiery serpents.²⁹⁶⁶ I say nothing of what was figured by this cure.²⁹⁶⁷ Thus, too, the golden Cherubim and Seraphim were purely an ornament in the figured fashion²⁹⁶⁸ of the ark; adapted to ornamentation for reasons totally remote from all condition of idolatry, on account of which the making a likeness is prohibited; and they are evidently not at variance with²⁹⁶⁹ this law of prohibition, because they are not found in that form²⁹⁷⁰ of similitude, in reference to which the prohibition is given. We have spoken²⁹⁷¹ of the rational institution of the sacrifices, as calling off their homage from idols to God; and if He afterwards rejected this homage, saying, “To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me?”²⁹⁷²—He meant nothing else than this to be understood, that He had never really required such homage for Himself. For He says, “I will not eat the flesh of bulls;”²⁹⁷³ and in another passage: “The everlasting God shall neither hunger nor thirst.”²⁹⁷⁴ Although He had respect to the offerings of Abel, and smelled a sweet savour from the holocaust of Noah, yet what pleasure could He receive from the flesh of sheep, or the odour of burning victims? And yet the simple and God-fearing mind of those who offered what they were receiving from God, both in the way of food and of a sweet smell, was favourably accepted before God, in the sense of respectful homage²⁹⁷⁵ to God, who did

2963 Substantiam.

2964 Cæcæ.

2965 Titulum. [See Vol. II. p. 477, this series.]

2966 Num. xxi. 8, 9.

2967 See John iii. 14.

2968 Exemplum.

2969 Refragari.

2970 Statu.

2971 In chap. xviii. towards the end. [p. 311, *supra*.]

2972 Isa. i. 11.

2973 Ps. l. 13.

2974 An inexact quotation of Isa. xl. 28.

2975 Honorem.

not so much want what was offered, as that which prompted the offering. Suppose now, that some dependant were to offer to a rich man or a king, who was in want of nothing, some very insignificant gift, will the amount and quality of the gift bring dishonour²⁹⁷⁶ to the rich man and the king; or will the consideration²⁹⁷⁷ of the homage give them pleasure? Were, however, the dependant, either of his own accord or even in compliance with a command, to present to him gifts suitably to his rank, and were he to observe the solemnities due to a king, only without faith and purity of heart, and without any readiness for other acts of obedience, will not that king or rich man consequently exclaim: "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? I am full of your solemnities, your feast-days, and your Sabbaths."²⁹⁷⁸ By calling them *yours*, as having been performed²⁹⁷⁹ after the giver's own will, and not according to the religion of God (since he displayed them as his own, and not as God's), *the Almighty in this passage*, demonstrated how suitable to the conditions of the case, and how reasonable, was His rejection of those very offerings which He had commanded to be made to Him.

2976 Infuscabit.

2977 Titulus.

2978 See [Isa. i. 11-14](#).

2979 *Fecerat* seems the better reading: *q.d.* "which he had performed," etc. Oehler reads *fecerant*.

Chapter XXIII.—God's Purposes in Election and Rejection of the Same Men, Such as King Saul, Explained, in Answer to the Marcionite Cavil.

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Now, although you will have it that He is inconstant²⁹⁸⁰ in respect of persons, sometimes disapproving where approbation is deserved; or else wanting in foresight, bestowing approbation on men who ought rather to be reprobated, as if He either censured²⁹⁸¹ His own past judgments, or could not forecast His future ones; yet²⁹⁸² nothing is so consistent for even a good judge²⁹⁸³ as both to reject and to choose on the merits of the present moment. Saul is chosen,²⁹⁸⁴ but he is not yet the despiser of the prophet Samuel.²⁹⁸⁵ Solomon is rejected; but he is now become a prey to foreign women, and a slave to the idols of Moab and Sidon. What must the Creator do, in order to escape the censure of the Marcionites? Must He prematurely condemn men, who are thus far correct in their conduct, because of future delinquencies? But it is not the mark of a good God to condemn beforehand persons who have not yet deserved condemnation. Must He then refuse to eject sinners, on account of their previous good deeds? But it is not the characteristic of a just judge to forgive sins in consideration of former virtues which are no longer practised. Now, who is so faultless among men, that God could always have him in His choice, and never be able to reject him? Or who, on the other hand, is so void of any good work, that God could reject him for ever, and never be able to choose him? Show me, then, the man who is always good, and he will not be rejected; show me, too, him who is always evil, and he will never be chosen. Should, however, the same man, being found on different occasions in the pursuit of both (good and evil) be recompensed²⁹⁸⁶ in both directions by God, who is both a good and judicial Being, He does not change His judgments through inconstancy or want of foresight, but dispenses reward according to the deserts of each case with a most unwavering and provident decision.²⁹⁸⁷

2980 Levem.

2981 Damnet.

2982 Atquin.

2983 Or, "for one who is a good man and a judge."

2984 [1 Sam. ix.](#)

2985 [1 Sam. xiii.](#)

2986 Dispungetur.

2987 Censura.

Chapter XXIV.—Instances of God's Repentance, and Notably in the Case of the Ninevites, Accounted for and Vindicated.

Furthermore, with respect to the repentance which occurs in His conduct,²⁹⁸⁸ you interpret it with similar perverseness just as if it were with fickleness and improvidence that He repented, or on the recollection of some wrong-doing; because He actually said, "It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king,"²⁹⁸⁹ very much as if He meant that His repentance savoured of an acknowledgment of some evil work or error. Well,²⁹⁹⁰ this is not always implied. For there occurs even in good works a confession of repentance, as a reproach and condemnation of the man who has proved himself unthankful for a benefit. For instance, in this case of Saul, the Creator, who had made no mistake in selecting him for the kingdom, and endowing him with His Holy Spirit, makes a statement respecting the goodness of his person, how that He had most fitly chosen him as being at that moment the choicest man, so that (as He says) there was not his fellow among the children of Israel.²⁹⁹¹ Neither was He ignorant how he would afterwards turn out. For no one would bear you out in imputing lack of foresight to that God whom, since you do not deny Him to be divine, you allow to be also foreseeing; for this proper attribute of divinity exists in Him. However, He did, as I have said, burden²⁹⁹² the guilt of Saul with the confession of His own repentance; but as there is an absence of all error and wrong in His choice of Saul, it follows that this repentance is to be understood as upbraiding another²⁹⁹³ rather than as self-incriminating.²⁹⁹⁴ Look here then, say you: I discover a self-incriminating case in the matter of the Ninevites, when the book of Jonah declares, "And God repented of the evil that He had said that He would do unto them; and He did it not."²⁹⁹⁵ In accordance with which Jonah himself says unto the Lord, "Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish; for I knew that Thou art a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest Thee of the evil."²⁹⁹⁶ It is well, therefore, that he premised the attribute²⁹⁹⁷ of the most good God as most patient over the wicked, and most abundant in mercy and kindness over such as acknowledged and

2988 Apud illum.

2989 1 Sam. xv. 11.

2990 Porro.

2991 1 Sam. ix. 2.

2992 Onerabat.

2993 Invidiosam.

2994 Criminosam.

2995 Jonah iii. 10.

2996 Jonah iv. 2.

2997 Titulum.

bewailed their sins, as the Ninevites were then doing. For if He who has this attribute is the Most Good, you will have first to relinquish that position of yours, that the very contact with²⁹⁹⁸ evil is incompatible with such a Being, that is, with the most good God. And because Marcion, too, maintains that a good tree ought not to produce bad fruit; but yet he has mentioned “evil” (in the passage under discussion), which the most good God is incapable of,²⁹⁹⁹ is there forthcoming any explanation of these “evils,” which may render them compatible with even the most Good? There is. We say, in short, that evil in the present case³⁰⁰⁰ means, not what may be attributed to the Creator’s nature as an evil being, but what may be attributed to His power as a judge. In accordance with which He declared, “I create evil,”³⁰⁰¹ and, “I frame evil against you;”³⁰⁰² meaning not to sinful evils, but avenging ones. What sort of stigma³⁰⁰³ pertains to these, congruous as they are with God’s judicial character, we have sufficiently explained.³⁰⁰⁴ Now although these are called “evils,” they are yet not reprehensible in a judge; nor because of this their name do they show that the judge is evil: so in like manner will this particular evil³⁰⁰⁵ be understood to be one of this class of judiciary evils, and along with them to be compatible with (God as) a judge. The Greeks also sometimes³⁰⁰⁶ use the word “evils” for troubles and injuries (not malignant ones), as in this passage of yours³⁰⁰⁷ is also meant. Therefore, if the Creator repented of such evil as this, as showing that the creature deserve decondemnation, and ought to be punished for his sin, then, in³⁰⁰⁸ the present instance no fault of a criminating nature will be imputed to the Creator, for having deservedly and worthily decreed the destruction of a city so full of iniquity. What therefore He had justly decreed, having no evil purpose in His decree, He decreed from the principle of justice,³⁰⁰⁹ not from malevolence. Yet He gave it the name of “evil,” because of the evil and desert involved in the very suffering itself. Then, you will say, if you excuse the evil under name of justice, on the ground that He had justly determined

2998 Malitiæ concursum.

2999 Non capit.

3000 Nunc.

3001 [Isa. xlv. 7.](#)

3002 [Jer. xviii. 11.](#)

3003 Infamiam.

3004 See above, chap. xiv. [p. 308, *supra.*]

3005 Malitia, i.e., “the evil” mentioned in the cited [Jonah iii. 10.](#)

3006 Thus, according to St. Jerome, in [Matt. vi. 34.](#) κακία means κάκωσις. “Sufficient for the day is *the evil* thereof”—the occurrent adversities.

3007 In isto articulo.

3008 Atqui hic.

3009 Or, “in his capacity as Judge,” ex justitia.

destruction against the people of Nineveh, He must even on this argument be blameworthy, for having repented of an act of justice, which surely should not be repented of. Certainly not,³⁰¹⁰ my reply is; God will never repent of an act of justice. And it now remains that we should understand what God's repentance means. For although man repents most frequently on the recollection of a sin, and occasionally even from the unpleasantness³⁰¹¹ of some good action, this is never the case with God. For, inasmuch as God neither commits sin nor condemns a good action, in so far as there is no room in Him for repentance of either a good or an evil deed. Now this point is determined for you even in the scripture which we have quoted. Samuel says to Saul, "The Lord hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine that is better than thou;"³⁰¹² and into two parts shall Israel be divided: "for He will not turn Himself, nor repent; for He does not repent as a man does."³⁰¹³ According, therefore, to this definition, the divine repentance takes in all cases a different form from that of man, in that it is never regarded as the result of improvidence or of fickleness, or of any condemnation of a good or an evil work. What, then, will be the mode of God's repentance? It is already quite clear,³⁰¹⁴ if you avoid referring it to human conditions. For it will have no other meaning than a simple change of a prior purpose; and this is admissible without any blame even in a man, much more³⁰¹⁵ in God, whose every purpose is faultless. Now in Greek the word for repentance (μετάνοια) is formed, not from the confession of a sin, but from a change of mind, which in God we have shown to be regulated by the occurrence of varying circumstances.

3010 Immo.

3011 Ingratia.

3012 [1 Sam. xv. 28.](#)

3013 [Ver. 29](#), but inexactly quoted.

3014 Relucet.

3015 Nedum.

Chapter XXV.—God's Dealings with Adam at the Fall, and with Cain After His Crime, Admirably Explained and Defended.

It is now high time that I should, in order to meet all³⁰¹⁶ objections of this kind, proceed to the explanation and clearing up³⁰¹⁷ of the other trifles,³⁰¹⁸ weak points, and inconsistencies, as you deemed them. God calls out to Adam,³⁰¹⁹ Where art thou? as if ignorant where he was; and when he alleged that the shame of his nakedness was the cause (of his hiding himself), He inquired whether he had eaten of the tree, as if He were in doubt. By no means;³⁰²⁰ God was neither uncertain about the commission of the sin, nor ignorant of Adam's whereabouts. It was certainly proper to summon the offender, who was concealing himself from the consciousness of his sin, and to bring him forth into the presence of his Lord, not merely by the calling out of his name, but with a home-thrust blow³⁰²¹ at the sin which he had at that moment committed. For the question ought not to be read in a merely interrogative tone, Where art thou, Adam? but with an impressive and earnest voice, and with an air of imputation, Oh, Adam, *where* art thou?—as much as to intimate: thou art no longer here, thou art in perdition—so that the voice is the utterance of One who is at once rebuking and sorrowing.³⁰²² But of course some part of paradise had escaped the eye of Him who holds the universe in His hand as if it were a bird's nest, and to whom heaven is a throne and earth a footstool; so that He could not see, before He summoned him forth, where Adam was, both while lurking and when eating of the forbidden fruit! The wolf or the paltry thief escapes not the notice of the keeper of your vineyard or your garden! And God, I suppose, with His keener vision,³⁰²³ from on high was unable to miss the sight of³⁰²⁴ aught which lay beneath Him! Foolish heretic, who treat with scorn³⁰²⁵ so fine an argument of God's greatness and man's instruction! God put the question with an appearance of uncertainty, in order that even here He might prove man to be the subject of a free will in the alternative of either a denial or a confession, and give to him the opportunity of freely ac-



3016 Ut omnia expediam.

3017 Purgandas.

3018 Pusillitates.

3019 Gen. iii. 9, 11.

3020 Immo.

3021 Sugillatione.

3022 Dolendi.

3023 Oculatiorem.

3024 Præterire.

3025 Naso.

knowledging his transgression, and, so far,³⁰²⁶ of lightening it.³⁰²⁷ In like manner He inquires of Cain where his brother was, just as if He had not yet heard the blood of Abel crying from the ground, in order that he too might have the opportunity from the same power of the will of spontaneously denying, and to this degree aggravating, his crime; and that thus there might be supplied to us examples of confessing sins rather than of denying them: so that even then was initiated the evangelic doctrine, “By thy words³⁰²⁸ thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”³⁰²⁹ Now, although Adam was by reason of his condition under law³⁰³⁰ subject to death, yet was hope preserved to him by the Lord’s saying, “Behold, Adam is become as one of us;”³⁰³¹ that is, in consequence of the future taking of the man into the divine nature. Then what follows? “And now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, (and eat), and live for ever.” Inserting thus the particle of present time, “And now,” He shows that He had made for a time, and at present, a prolongation of man’s life. Therefore He did not actually³⁰³² curse Adam and Eve, for they were candidates for restoration, and they had been relieved³⁰³³ by confession. Cain, however, He not only cursed; but when he wished to atone for his sin by death, He even prohibited his dying, so that he had to bear the load of this prohibition in addition to his crime. This, then, will prove to be the ignorance of our God, which was simulated on this account, that delinquent man should not be unaware of what he ought to do. Coming down to the case of Sodom and Gomorrhah, he says: “I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.”³⁰³⁴ Well, was He in this instance also uncertain through ignorance, and desiring to know? Or was this a necessary tone of utterance, as expressive of a minatory and not a dubious sense, under the colour of an inquiry? If you make merry at God’s “going down,” as if He could not except by the descent have accomplished His judgment, take care that you do not strike your own God with as hard a blow. For He also came down to accomplish what He wished.

3026 Hoc nomine.

3027 Relevandi.

3028 Ex ore tuo, “out of thine own mouth.”

3029 [Matt. xii. 37.](#)

3030 Propter statum legis.

3031 [Gen. iii. 22.](#) [[II. Peter, i. 4.](#)]

3032 Ipsum. [[Comp. Heb. ix. 8, and Rev. xxii. 14.](#)]

3033 Relevatos.

3034 [Gen. xviii. 21.](#) [[Marcion’s god also “comes down.” p. 284, supra.](#)]

Chapter XXVI.—The Oath of God: Its Meaning. Moses, When Deprecating God's Wrath Against Israel, a Type of Christ.

But God also swears. Well, is it, I wonder, by the God of Marcion? No, no, he says; a much vainer oath—by Himself.³⁰³⁵ What was He to do, when He knew³⁰³⁶ of no other God; especially when He was swearing to this very point, that besides himself there was absolutely no God? Is it then of swearing falsely that you convict³⁰³⁷ Him, or of swearing a vain oath? But it is not possible for him to appear to have sworn falsely, when he was ignorant, as you say he was, that there was another God. For when he swore by that which he knew, he really committed no perjury. But it was not a vain oath for him to swear that there was no other God. It would indeed be a vain oath, if there had been no persons who believed that there were other Gods, like the worshippers of idols then, and the heretics of the present day. Therefore He swears by Himself, in order that you may believe God, even when He swears that there is besides Himself no other God at all. But you have yourself, O Marcion, compelled God to do this. For even so early as then were you foreseen. Hence, if He swears both in His promises and His threatenings, and thus extorts³⁰³⁸ faith which at first was difficult, nothing is unworthy of God which causes men to believe in God. But (you say) God was even then mean³⁰³⁹ enough in His very fierceness, when, in His wrath against the people for their consecration of the calf, He makes this request of His servant Moses: “Let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them; and I will make of thee a great nation.”³⁰⁴⁰ Accordingly, you maintain that Moses is better than his God, as the deprecator, nay the averter, of His anger. “For,” said he, “Thou shalt not do this; or else destroy me along with them.”³⁰⁴¹ Pitiably are ye also, as well as the people, since you know not Christ, prefigured in the person of Moses as the deprecator of the Father, and the offerer of His own life for the salvation of the people. It is enough, however, that the nation was at the instant really given to Moses. That which he, as a servant, was able to ask of the Lord, the Lord required of Himself. For this purpose did He say to His servant, “Let me alone, that I may consume them,” in order that by his entreaty, and by offering himself,



3035 See [Jer. xxii. 5.](#)

3036 [Isa. xlv. 8.](#)

3037 [Deprehendis.](#)

3038 [Extorquens.](#)

3039 [Pusillus.](#)

3040 [Ex. xxxii. 10.](#)

3041 An allusion to, rather than a quotation of, [Ex. xxxii. 32.](#)

he might hinder³⁰⁴² (the threatened judgment), and that you might by such an instance learn how much privilege is vouchsafed³⁰⁴³ with God to a faithful man and a prophet.

3042 Non sineret.

3043 Quantum liceat.

Chapter XXVII.—Other Objections Considered. God's Condescension in the Incarnation. Nothing Derogatory to the Divine Being in This Economy. The Divine Majesty Worthily Sustained by the Almighty Father, Never Visible to Man. Perverseness of the Marcionite Cavils.

And now, that I may briefly pass in review³⁰⁴⁴ the other points which you have thus far been engaged in collecting, as mean, weak, and unworthy, for demolishing³⁰⁴⁵ the Creator, I will propound them in a simple and definite statement:³⁰⁴⁶ that God would have been unable to hold any intercourse with men, if He had not taken on Himself the emotions and affections of man, by means of which He could temper the strength of His majesty, which would no doubt have been incapable of endurance to the moderate capacity of man, by such a humiliation as was indeed degrading³⁰⁴⁷ to Himself, but necessary for man, and such as on this very account became worthy of God, because nothing is so worthy of God as the salvation of man. If I were arguing with heathens, I should dwell more at length on this point; although with heretics too the discussion does not stand on very different grounds. Inasmuch as ye yourselves have now come to the belief that God moved about³⁰⁴⁸ in the form and all other circumstances of man's nature,³⁰⁴⁹ you will of course no longer require to be convinced that God conformed Himself to humanity, but feel yourselves bound by your own faith. For if the God (in whom ye believe,) even from His higher condition, prostrated the supreme dignity of His majesty to such a lowliness as to undergo death, even the death of the cross, why can you not suppose that some humiliations³⁰⁵⁰ are becoming to our God also, only more tolerable than Jewish contumelies, and crosses,³⁰⁵¹ and sepulchres? Are these the humiliations which henceforth are to raise a prejudice against Christ (the subject as He is of human passions³⁰⁵²) being a partaker of that Godhead³⁰⁵³ against which you make the participation in human qualities a reproach? Now we believe that Christ did ever act in the name of God the Father; that He actually³⁰⁵⁴ from the beginning held inter-

3044 Absolvam.

3045 Ad destructionem.

3046 Ratione.

3047 Indigna.

3048 Diversatum.

3049 Conditionis.

3050 Pusillitates.

3051 Patibulis.

3052 i.e., the sensations of our emotional nature.

3053 Ejus Dei.

3054 Ipsum.

course with (men); actually³⁰⁵⁵ communed with³⁰⁵⁶ patriarchs and prophets; was the Son of the Creator; was His Word; whom God made His Son³⁰⁵⁷ by emitting Him from His own self,³⁰⁵⁸ and thenceforth set Him over every dispensation and (administration of) His will,³⁰⁵⁹ making Him a little lower than the angels, as is written in David.³⁰⁶⁰ In which lowering of His condition He received from the Father a dispensation in those very respects which you blame as human; from the very beginning learning,³⁰⁶¹ even then, (that state of a) man which He was destined in the end to become.³⁰⁶² It is He who descends, He who interrogates, He who demands, He who swears. With regard, however, to the Father, the very gospel which is common to us will testify that He was never visible, according to the word of Christ: “No man knoweth the Father, save the Son.”³⁰⁶³ For even in the Old Testament He had declared, “No man shall see me, and live.”³⁰⁶⁴ He means that the Father is



3055 Ipsum.

3056 Congressum.

3057 On this mode of the eternal generation of the Son from the Father, as the Λόγος προφορικός, the reader is referred for much patristic information to Bp. Bull's *Defensio Fid. Nic.* (trans. in *Anglo-Cath. Library* by the translator of this work).

3058 Proferendo ex semet ipso.

3059 Voluntati.

3060 Ps. viii. 6.

3061 Ediscens, “practising” or “rehearsing.”

3062 This doctrine of theology is more fully expressed by our author in a fine passage in his *Treatise against Praxeas*, xvi. (Oehler, vol. ii. p. 674), of which the translator gave this version in Bp. Bull's *Def. Nic. Creed*, vol. i. p. 18: “The Son hath executed judgment from the beginning, throwing down the haughty tower, and dividing the tongues, punishing the whole world by the violence of waters, raining upon Sodom and Gomorrha fire and brimstone ‘the Lord from the Lord.’ For he it was who at all times came down to hold converse with men, from Adam on to the patriarchs and the prophets, in vision, in dream, in mirror, in dark saying; ever from the beginning laying the foundation of the course (of His dispensations), which He meant to follow out unto the end. Thus was He ever learning (practising or rehearsing); and the God who conversed with men upon earth could be no other than the Word, which was to be made flesh. But He was thus learning (or rehearsing, *ediscebat*) in order to level for us the way of faith, that we might the more readily believe that the Son of God had come down into the world, if we knew that in times past also something similar had been done.” The original thus opens: “Filius itaque est qui ab initio *judicavit*.” This the author connects with [John iii. 35](#), [Matt. xxviii. 18](#), [John v. 22](#). The “*judgment*” is dispensational from the first to the last. Every *judicial* function of God's providence from Eden to the judgment day is administered by the Son of God. This office of *judge* has been largely dealt with in its general view by Tertullian, in this book ii. against Marcion (see chap. xi.–xvii.).

3063 [Matt. xi. 27](#).

3064 [Ex. xxxiii. 20](#).

invisible, in whose authority and in whose name was He God who appeared as the Son of God. But with us³⁰⁶⁵ Christ is received in the person of Christ, because even in this manner is He our *God*. Whatever attributes therefore you require as worthy of God, must be found in the Father, who is invisible and unapproachable, and placid, and (so to speak) the God of the philosophers; whereas those qualities which you censure as unworthy must be supposed to be in the Son, who has been seen, and heard, and encountered, the Witness and Servant of the Father, uniting in Himself man and God, God in mighty deeds, in weak ones man, in order that He may give to man as much as He takes from God. What in your esteem is the entire disgrace of my God, is in fact the sacrament of man's salvation. God held converse with man, that man might learn to act as God. God dealt on equal terms³⁰⁶⁶ with man, that man might be able to deal on equal terms with God. God was found little, that man might become very great. You who disdain such a God, I hardly know whether you *ex fide* believe that God was crucified. How great, then, is your perversity in respect of the two characters of the Creator! You designate Him as *Judge*, and reprobate as cruelty that severity of the Judge which only acts in accord with the merits of cases. You require God to be *very good*, and yet despise as meanness that gentleness of His which accorded with His kindness, (and) held lowly converse in proportion to the mediocrity of man's estate. He pleases you not, whether great or little, neither as your judge nor as your friend! What if the same features should be discovered in your God? That *He* too is a judge, we have already shown in the proper section:³⁰⁶⁷ that from being a judge He must needs be severe; and from being severe He must also be cruel, if indeed cruel.³⁰⁶⁸

3065 Penes nos. Christians, not Marcionites. [Could our author have regarded himself as formally at war with the church, at this time?]

3066 Ex æquo agebat.

3067 In the 1st book, 25th and following chapters.

3068 Sævum.

Chapter XXVIII.—The Tables Turned Upon Marcion, by Contrasts, in Favour of the True God.

Now, touching the weaknesses and malignities, and the other (alleged), notes (of the Creator), I too shall advance *antitheses* in rivalry to Marcion's. If my God knew not of any other superior to Himself, your god also was utterly unaware that there was any beneath himself. It is just what Heraclitus "the obscure"³⁰⁶⁹ said; whether it be up or down,³⁰⁷⁰ it comes to the same thing. If, indeed, he was not ignorant (of his position), it must have occurred to Him from the beginning. Sin and death, and the author of sin too—the devil—and all the evil which my God permitted to be, this also, did your god permit; for he allowed Him to permit it. Our God changed His purposes;³⁰⁷¹ in like manner yours did also. For he who cast his look so late in the human race, changed that purpose, which for so long a period had refused to cast that look. Our God repented Him of the evil in a given case; so also did yours. For by the fact that he at last had regard to the salvation of man, he showed such a repentance of his previous disregard³⁰⁷² as was due for a wrong deed. But neglect of man's salvation will be accounted a wrong deed, simply because it has been remedied³⁰⁷³ by his repentance in the conduct of your god. Our God you say commanded a fraudulent act, but in a matter of gold and silver. Now, inasmuch as man is more precious than gold and silver, in so far is your god more fraudulent still, because he robs man of his Lord and Creator. Eye for eye does our God require; but your god does even a greater injury, (in your ideas,) when he prevents an act of retaliation. For what man will not return a blow, without waiting to be struck a second time.³⁰⁷⁴ Our God (you say) knows not whom He ought to choose. Nor does your god, for if he had foreknown the issue, he would not have chosen the traitor Judas. If you allege that the Creator practised deception³⁰⁷⁵ in any instance, there was a far greater mendacity in your Christ, whose very body was unreal.³⁰⁷⁶ Many were consumed by the severity of my God. Those also who were not saved by your god are verily



3069 Tenebrosus. Cicero, *De finibus*, ii. says: "Heraclitus qui cognomento Σκοτεινός perhibetur, quia de natura nimis obscure memoravit."

3070 Sursam et deorsum. An allusion to Heraclitus' doctrine of constant change, flux and reflux, out of which all things came. Καὶ τὴν μεταβολὴν ὁδὸν ἄνω κάτω, τὸν τε κόσμον γίνεσθαι κατὰ ταύτην, κ.τ.λ. "Change is the way up and down; the world comes into being thus," etc. (Diogenes Laertius, ix. 8).

3071 Sententias.

3072 Dissimulationes.

3073 Non nisi emendata.

3074 Non repercussus.

3075 Mentitum.

3076 Non verum. An allusion to the Docetism of Marcion.

disposed by him to ruin. My God ordered a man to be slain. Your god willed himself to be put to death; not less a homicide against himself than in respect of him by whom he meant to be slain. I will moreover prove to Marcion that they were many who were slain by his god; for he made every one a homicide: in other words, he doomed him to perish, except when people failed in no duty towards Christ.³⁰⁷⁷ But the straightforward virtue of truth is contented with few resources.³⁰⁷⁸ Many things will be necessary for falsehood.

3077 Nihil deliquit in Christum, that is, Marcion's Christ.

3078 Paucis amat.

Chapter XXIX.—Marcion's Own Antitheses, If Only the Title and Object of the Work Be Excepted, Afford Proofs of the Consistent Attributes of the True God.

But I would have attacked Marcion's own *Antitheses* in closer and fuller combat, if a more elaborate demolition of them were required in maintaining for the Creator the character of a good God and a Judge, after³⁰⁷⁹ the examples of both points, which we have shown to be so worthy of God. Since, however, these two attributes of goodness and justice do together make up the proper fulness of the Divine Being as omnipotent, I am able to content myself with having now compendiously refuted his *Antitheses*, which aim at drawing distinctions out of the qualities of the (Creator's) artifices,³⁰⁸⁰ or of His laws, or of His great works; and thus sundering Christ from the Creator, as the most Good from the Judge, as One who is merciful from Him who is ruthless, and One who brings salvation from Him who causes ruin. The truth is,³⁰⁸¹ they³⁰⁸² rather unite the two Beings whom they arrange in those diversities (of attribute), which yet are compatible in God. For only take away the title of Marcion's book,³⁰⁸³ and the intention and purpose of the work itself, and you could get no better demonstration that the self-same God was both very good and a Judge, inasmuch as these two characters are only competently found in God. Indeed, the very effort which is made in the selected examples to oppose Christ to the Creator, conduces all the more to their union. For so entirely one and the same was the nature of the Divine Beings, the good and the severe, as shown both by the same examples and in similar proofs, that It willed to display Its goodness to those on whom It had first inflicted Its severity. The difference in time was no matter of surprise, when the same God was afterwards merciful in presence of evils which had been subdued,³⁰⁸⁴ who had once been so austere whilst they were as yet unsubdued. Thus, by help of the *Antitheses*, the dispensation of the Creator can be more readily shown to have been *reformed* by Christ, rather than *destroyed*;³⁰⁸⁵ *restored*, rather than *abolished*;³⁰⁸⁶ especially as you sever your own god from everything like acrimonious conduct,³⁰⁸⁷ even from all rivalry whatsoever with the Creator. Now, since this is the case,

3079 Secundum.

3080 Ingeniorum.

3081 Enim.

3082 i.e., Marcion's *Antitheses*.

3083 *Antitheses* so called because Marcion in it had set passages out of the O.T. and the N.T. in opposition to each other, intending his readers to infer from the apparent disagreement that the law and the gospel were not from the same author (Bp. Kaye on Tertullian, p. 468).

3084 Pro rebus edomitis. See chap. xv. and xix., where he refers to *the law* as the subduing instrument.

3085 Repercussus: perhaps "refuted."

3086 Exclusus.

3087 Ab omni motu amariore.

how comes it to pass that the *Antitheses* demonstrate Him to have been the Creator's rival in every disputed cause?³⁰⁸⁸ Well, even here, too, I will allow that in these causes my God has been a jealous God, who has in His own right taken especial care that all things done by Him should be in their beginning of a robuster growth;³⁰⁸⁹ and this in the way of a good, because rational³⁰⁹⁰ emulation, which tends to maturity. In this sense the world itself will acknowledge His "antitheses," from the contrariety of its own elements, although it has been regulated with the very highest reason.³⁰⁹¹ Wherefore, most thoughtless Marcion, it was your duty to have shown that one (of the two Gods you teach) was a God of light, and the other a God of darkness; and then you would have found it an easier task to persuade us that one was a God of goodness, the other a God of severity. How ever, the "antithesis" (or variety of administration) will rightly be His property, to whom it actually belongs in (the government of) the world.

3088 Singulas species, a law term.

3089 Arbustiores. A figurative word, taken from vines more firmly supported on trees instead of on frames. He has used the word *indomitis* above to express his meaning.

3090 Rationali. Compare chap. vi. of this book, where the "*ratio*," or purpose of God, is shown to be consistent with His goodness in providing for its highest development in man's interest.

3091 Ratione: in reference to God's *ratio* or purpose in creation. See chap. vi. note 10. [p. 301, *supra*.]

Book III.



Wherein Christ is shown to be the Son of God, Who created the world; to have been predicted by the prophets; to have taken human flesh like our own, by a real incarnation.

Chapter I.—Introductory; A Brief Statement of the Preceding Argument in Connection with the Subject of This Book.

Following the track of my original treatise, the loss of which we are steadily proceeding³⁰⁹² to restore, we come now, in the order of our subject, to treat of Christ, although this be a work of supererogation,³⁰⁹³ after the proof which we have gone through that there is but one only God. For no doubt it has been already ruled with sufficient clearness, that Christ must be regarded as pertaining to³⁰⁹⁴ no other God than the Creator, when it has been determined that no other God but the Creator should be the object of our faith. Him did Christ so expressly preach, whilst the apostles one after the other also so clearly affirmed that Christ belonged to³⁰⁹⁵ no other God than Him whom He Himself preached—that is, the Creator—that no mention of a second God (nor, accordingly, of a second Christ) was ever agitated previous to Marcion's scandal. This is most easily proved by an examination³⁰⁹⁶ of both the apostolic and the heretical churches,³⁰⁹⁷ from which we are forced to declare that *there* is undoubtedly a subversion of the rule (of faith), where any opinion is found of later date,³⁰⁹⁸—a point which I have inserted in my first book.³⁰⁹⁹ A discussion of it would

3092 Perseveramus.

3093 Ex abundantia.

3094 i.e., “as the Son of, or sent by, no other God.”

3095 i.e., “was the Son of, or sent by, no other God.”

3096 Recensu.

3097 [Surely Tertullian, when he wrote this, imagined himself not separated formally from the Apostolic churches. Of which see *De Præscriptione*, (p. 258) *supra*.]

3098 Ubi *posteritas* invenitur. Compare *De Præscript. Hæret.* 34, where Tertullian refers to “that definite rule, before laid down, touching ‘the later date’ (illo fine supra dicto *posteritatis*), whereby they (i.e., certain novel opinions) would at once be condemned on the ground of their age alone.” In 31 of the same work he contrasts “*posteritatem mendacitatis*” with “*principalitatem veritatis*”—“the latter date of falsehood” with “the primary date of truth.” [pp. 258, 260, *supra*.]

3099 See book i. chap. 1.

unquestionably be of value even now, when we are about to make a separate examination into (the subject of) Christ; because, whilst proving Christ to be the Creator's *Son*, we are effectually shutting out the God of Marcion. Truth should employ all her available resources, and in no limping way.³¹⁰⁰ In our compendious rules of faith, however, she has it all her own way.³¹⁰¹ But I have resolved, like an earnest man,³¹⁰² to meet my adversary every way and everywhere in the madness of his heresy, which is so great, that he has found it easier to assume that that Christ has come who was never heard of, than He who has always been predicted.

3100 Non ut laborantem. "Qui enim laborant non totis sed fractis utuntur viribus." Πανσπρατιᾶ πανσυδίη; Anglice, "with all her might."

3101 In præscript. compendiis vincit.

3102 Ut gestientem.

Chapter II.—Why Christ's Coming Should Be Previously Announced.

Coming then at once to the point,³¹⁰³ I have to encounter the question, Whether Christ ought to have come so suddenly?³¹⁰⁴ (I answer, No.) First, because He was the Son of God His Father. For this was a point of order, that the Father should announce³¹⁰⁵ the Son before the Son should the Father, and that the Father should testify of the Son before the Son should testify of the Father. Secondly, because, in addition to the title of Son, He was the Sent. The authority,³¹⁰⁶ therefore, of the Sender must needs have first appeared in a testimony of the Sent; because none who comes in the authority of another does himself set it forth³¹⁰⁷ for himself on his own assertion, but rather looks out for protection from it, for first comes the support³¹⁰⁸ of him who gives him his authority. Now (Christ) will neither be acknowledged as Son if the Father never named Him, nor be believed in as the Sent One if no Sender³¹⁰⁹ gave Him a commission: the Father, if any, purposely naming Him; and the Sender, if any, purposely commissioning Him. Everything will be open to suspicion which transgresses a rule. Now the primary order of all things will not allow that the Father should come after the Son in recognition, or the Sender after the Sent, or God after Christ. Nothing can take precedence of its own original in being acknowledged, nor in like manner can it in its ordering.³¹¹⁰ Suddenly a Son, suddenly Sent, and suddenly Christ! On the contrary, I should suppose that from God nothing comes suddenly, because there is nothing which is not ordered and arranged by God. And if ordered, why not also foretold, that it may be proved to have been ordered by the prediction, and by the ordering to be divine? And indeed so great a work, which (we may be sure) required preparation,³¹¹¹ as being for the salvation of man, could not have been on that very account a sudden thing, because it was through faith that it was to be of avail.³¹¹² Inasmuch, then, as it had to be believed in order to be of use, so far did it require, for the securing of this faith, a preparation built upon the foundations of pro-arrangement and fore-announcement. Faith, when informed by such a process, might justly be required³¹¹³ of man by God, and by man be reposed in God; it being a duty,



3103 Hinc denique.

3104 As Marcion makes Him.

3105 Profiteretur.

3106 Patrocinium.

3107 Defendit, "insist on it."

3108 Suggestu.

3109 Mandator.

3110 Dispositione, "its being ordered or arranged."

3111 Parabatur.

3112 Per fidem profuturum.

3113 Indiceretur.

after that knowledge³¹¹⁴ has made it a possibility, to believe those things which a man had learned indeed to believe from the fore-announcement.³¹¹⁵

3114 Agnitione.

3115 Prædicatione, "prophecy."

Chapter III.—Miracles Alone, Without Prophecy, an Insufficient Evidence of Christ's Mission.

A procedure³¹¹⁶ of this kind, you say, was not necessary, because He was forthwith to prove Himself the Son and the Sent One, and the Christ of God in very deed, by means of the evidence of His wonderful works.³¹¹⁷ On my side, however, I have to deny that evidence simply of this sort was sufficient as a testimony to Him. He Himself afterwards deprived it of its authority,³¹¹⁸ because when He declared that many would come and “show great signs and wonders,”³¹¹⁹ so as to turn aside the very elect, and yet for all that were not to be received, He showed how rash was belief in signs and wonders, which were so very easy of accomplishment by even false christs. Else how happens it, if He meant Himself to be approved and understood, and received on a certain evidence—I mean that of miracles—that He forbade the recognition of those others who had the very same sort of proof to show, and whose coming was to be quite as sudden and unannounced by any authority?³¹²⁰ If, because He came before them, and was beforehand with them in displaying the signs of His mighty deeds, He therefore seized the first right to men's faith,—just as the firstcomers do the first place in the baths,—and so forestalled all who came after Him in that right, take care that He, too, be not caught in the condition of the later comers, if He be found to be behindhand with the Creator, who had already been made known, and had already worked miracles like Him,³¹²¹ and like Him had forewarned men not to believe in others, even such as should come after Him. If, therefore, to have been the first to come and utter this warning, is to bar and limit faith,³¹²² He will Himself have to be condemned, because He was later in being acknowledged; and authority to prescribe such a rule about later comers will belong to the Creator alone, who could have been posterior to none. And now, when I am about to prove that the Creator sometimes displayed by His servants of old, and in other cases reserved for His Christ to display, the self-same miracles which you claim as solely due to faith in your Christ, I may fairly even from this maintain that there was so much the greater reason wherefore Christ should not be believed in simply on account of His miracles, inasmuch as these would have shown Him to belong to none other (God) than the Creator, because answering to the mighty deeds of the Creator, both as performed by His servants and reserved

3116 Ordo.

3117 Virtutum, “miracles.”

3118 Exauctoravit.

3119 [Matt. xxiv. 24.](#) [See Kaye, p. 125.]

3120 Auctore.

3121 Proinde.

3122 Cludet, *quasi* claudet.

for³¹²³ His Christ; although, even if some other proofs should be found in your Christ—new ones, to wit—we should more readily believe that they, too, belong to the same God as do the old ones, rather than to him who has no other than new³¹²⁴ proofs, such as are wanting in the evidences of that antiquity which wins the assent of faith,³¹²⁵ so that even on this ground he ought to have come announced as much by prophecies of his own building up faith in him, as by miracles, especially in opposition to the Creator's Christ who was to come fortified by signs and prophets of His own, in order that he might shine forth as the rival of Christ by help of evidence of different kinds. But how was his Christ to be foretold by a god who was himself never predicted? This, therefore, is the unavoidable inference, that neither your god nor your Christ is an object of faith, because God ought not to have been unknown, and Christ ought to have been made known through God.³¹²⁶



3123 Repromissis in.

3124 Tantummodo nova.

3125 Egentia experimentis fidei victricis vetustatis.

3126 i.e., through God's announcement by prophecy.

Chapter IV.—Marcion's Christ Not the Subject of Prophecy. The Absurd Consequences of This Theory of the Heretic.

He³¹²⁷ disdained, I suppose, to imitate the order of our God, as one who was displeasing to him, and was by all means to be vanquished. He wished to come, as a new being in a new way—a son previous to his father's announcement, a sent one before the authority of the sender; so that he might in person³¹²⁸ propagate a most monstrous faith, whereby it should come to be believed that Christ was come before it should be known that He had an existence. It is here convenient to me to treat that other point: Why he came not after Christ? For when I observe that, during so long a period, his lord³¹²⁹ bore with the greatest patience the very ruthless Creator who was all the while announcing His Christ to men, I say, that whatever reason impelled him to do so, postponing thereby his own revelation and interposition, the self-same reason imposed on him the duty of bearing with the Creator (who had also in *His* Christ dispensations of His own to carry out); so that, after the completion and accomplishment of the entire plan of the rival God and the rival Christ,³¹³⁰ he might then superinduce his own proper dispensation. But he grew weary of so long an endurance, and so failed to wait till the end of the Creator's course. It was of no use, his enduring that his Christ should be predicted, when he refused to permit him to be manifested.³¹³¹ Either it was without just cause that he interrupted the full course of his rival's time, or without just cause did he so long refrain from interrupting it. What held him back *at first*? Or what disturbed him *at last*? As the case now stands, however,³¹³² he has committed himself in respect of both, having revealed himself so tardily after the Creator, so hurriedly before His Christ; whereas he ought long ago to have encountered the one with a confutation, the other to have forborne encountering as yet—not to have borne with the one so long in His ruthless hostility, nor to have disquieted the other, who was as yet quiescent! In the case of both, while depriving them of their title to be considered the most good God, he showed himself at least capricious and uncertain; lukewarm (in his resentment) towards the Creator,

3127 Your God.

3128 Ipse.

3129 Ejus (i.e. Marcionis) Dominum, meaning Marcion's God, who had not yet been revealed.

3130 The Creator and His Christ, as rivals of Marcion's.

3131 He twits Marcion with introducing his Christ on the scene *too soon*. He ought to have waited until the *Creator's* Christ (prophesied of through the Old Testament) had come. Why allow him to be predicted, and then forbid His actual coming, by his own arrival on the scene first? Of course, M. must be understood to deny that the Christ of the New Testament is the subject of the Old Testament prophecies at all. Hence T.'s anxiety to adduce *prophecy* as the main evidence of our Lord as being really the Creator's Christ.

3132 Atquin.

but fervid against His Christ, and powerless³¹³³ in respect of them both! For he no more restrained the Creator than he resisted His Christ. The Creator still remains such as He really is. His Christ also will come,³¹³⁴ just as it is written of Him. Why did he³¹³⁵ come after the Creator, since he was unable to correct Him by punishment?³¹³⁶ Why did he reveal himself before Christ, whom he could not hinder from appearing?³¹³⁷ If, on the contrary,³¹³⁸ he did chastise the Creator, he revealed himself, (I suppose,) after Him in order that things which require correction might come first. On which account also, (of course,) he ought to have waited for Christ to appear first, whom he was going to chastise in like manner; then he would be His punisher coming after Him,³¹³⁹ just as he had been in the case of the Creator. There is another consideration: since he will at his second advent come after Him, that as he at His first coming took hostile proceedings against the Creator, destroying the law and the prophets, which were His, so he may, to be sure,³¹⁴⁰ at his second coming proceed in opposition to Christ, upsetting³¹⁴¹ His kingdom. Then, no doubt, he would terminate his course, and then (if ever)³¹⁴² be worthy of belief; for else, if his work has been already perfected, it would be in vain for him to come, for there would indeed be nothing that he could further accomplish.



3133 Vanus.

3134 The reader will remember that Tertullian is here arguing on Marcion's ground, according to whom the Creator's Christ, the Christ predicted through the O.T., was yet to come. Marcion's Christ, however, had proved himself so weak to stem the Creator's course, that he had no means really of checking the Creator's Christ from coming. It had been better, adds Tertullian, if Marcion's Christ had waited for the Creator's Christ to have first appeared.

3135 Marcion's Christ.

3136 Emendare.

3137 Revocare.

3138 Aut si.

3139 Posterior emendator futurus: an instance of Tertullian's style in paradox.

3140 Vero.

3141 Redarguens.

3142 Si forte.

Chapter V.—Sundry Features of the Prophetic Style: Principles of Its Interpretation.

These preliminary remarks I have ventured to make³¹⁴³ at this first step of the discussion and while the conflict is, as it were, from a distance. But inasmuch as I shall now from this point have to grapple with my opponent on a distinct issue and in close combat, I perceive that I must advance even here some lines, at which the battle will have to be delivered; they are the Scriptures of the Creator. For as I shall have to prove that Christ was from the Creator, according to these (Scriptures), which were afterwards accomplished in the Creator's Christ, I find it necessary to set forth the form and, so to speak, the nature of the Scriptures themselves, that they may not distract the reader's attention by being called into controversy at the moment of their application to subjects of discussion, and by their proof being confounded with the proof of the subjects themselves. Now there are two conditions of prophetic announcement which I adduce, as requiring the assent of our adversaries in the future stages of the discussion. One, that future events are sometimes announced as if they were already passed. For it is³¹⁴⁴ consistent with Deity to regard as accomplished facts whatever It has determined on, because there is no difference of time with that Being in whom eternity itself directs a uniform condition of seasons. It is indeed more natural³¹⁴⁵ to the prophetic divination to represent as seen and already brought to pass,³¹⁴⁶ even while foreseeing it, that which it foresees; in other words, that which is by all means future. As for instance, in Isaiah: "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks (I exposed) to their hands. I hid not my face from shame and spitting."³¹⁴⁷ For whether it was Christ even then, as we hold, or the prophet, as the Jews say, who pronounced these words concerning himself, in either case, that which as yet had not happened sounded as if it had been already accomplished. Another characteristic will be, that very many events are figuratively predicted by means of enigmas and allegories and parables, and that they must be understood in a sense different from the literal description. For we both read of "the mountains dropping down new wine,"³¹⁴⁸ but not as if one might expect "*must*" from the stones, or its decoction from the rocks; and also hear of "a land flowing with milk and honey,"³¹⁴⁹ but not as if you were to suppose that you would ever gather Samian cakes from the ground; nor does God, forsooth, offer His services as a water-bailiff or a farmer when He says, "I will open rivers in a land;

3143 Proluserim.

3144 [An important principle, see Kaye, p. 325.]

3145 Familiare.

3146 Expunctum.

3147 Ch. I. 6, slightly altered.

3148 Joel iii. 18.

3149 Ex. iii. 8, 17; Deut. xxvi. 9, 15.

I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the box-tree.”³¹⁵⁰ In like manner, when, foretelling the conversion of the Gentiles, He says, “The beasts of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls,” He surely never meant to derive³¹⁵¹ His fortunate omens from the young of birds and foxes, and from the songsters of marvel and fable. But why enlarge on such a subject? When the very apostle whom our heretics adopt,³¹⁵² interprets the law which allows an unmuzzled mouth to the oxen that tread out the corn, not of cattle, but of ourselves;³¹⁵³ and also alleges that the rock which followed (the Israelites) and supplied them with drink was Christ;³¹⁵⁴ teaching the Galatians, moreover, that the two narratives of the sons of Abraham had an allegorical meaning in their course;³¹⁵⁵ and to the Ephesians giving an intimation that, when it was declared in the beginning that a man should leave his father and mother and become one flesh with his wife, he applied this to Christ and the church.³¹⁵⁶

3150 [Isa. xli. 18, 19](#), inexactly quoted.

3151 [Relaturus](#).

3152 [Hæreticorum apostolus](#). We have already referred to Marcion’s acceptance of St. Paul’s epistles. It has been suggested that Tertullian in the text uses *hæreticorum apostolus* as synonymous with *ethnicorum apostolus*="apostle of the Gentiles," in which case allusion to St. Paul would of course be equally clear. But this interpretation is unnecessary.

3153 [1 Cor. ix. 9](#).

3154 [1 Cor. x. 4](#); compare below, book v., chap. vii.

3155 [Gal. iv. 22, 24](#).

3156 [Eph. v. 31, 32](#).

Chapter VI.—Community in Certain Points of Marcionite and Jewish Error.
Prophecies of Christ's Rejection Examined.

Since, therefore, there clearly exist these two characteristics in the Jewish prophetic literature, let the reader remember,³¹⁵⁷ whenever we adduce any evidence therefrom, that, by mutual consent,³¹⁵⁸ the point of discussion is not the form of the scripture, but the subject it is called in to prove. When, therefore, our heretics in their phrenzy presumed to say that that Christ was come who had never been fore-announced, it followed that, on their assumption, that Christ had not yet appeared who had always been predicted; and thus they are obliged to make common cause with³¹⁵⁹ Jewish error, and construct their arguments with its assistance, on the pretence that the Jews were themselves quite certain that it was some other who came: so they not only rejected Him as a stranger, but slew Him as an enemy, although they would without doubt have acknowledged Him, and with all religious devotion followed Him, if He had only been one of themselves. Our shipmaster³¹⁶⁰ of course got his craft-wisdom not from the Rhodian law,³¹⁶¹ but from the Pontic,³¹⁶² which cautioned him against believing that the Jews had no right to sin against their Christ; whereas (even if nothing like their conduct had been predicted against them) human nature alone, liable to error as it is, might well have induced him to suppose that it was quite possible for the Jews to have committed such a sin, considered as men, without assuming any unfair prejudice regarding their feelings, whose sin was antecedently so credible. Since, however, it was actually foretold that they would not acknowledge Christ, and therefore would even put Him to death, it will therefore follow that He was both ignored³¹⁶³ and slain by them, who were beforehand pointed out as being about to commit such offences against Him. If you require a proof of this, instead of turning out those passages of Scripture which, while they declare Christ to be capable of suffering death, do thereby also affirm the possibility of His being rejected (for if He had not been rejected, He could not really suffer anything), but rather reserving them for the subject of His sufferings, I shall content myself at the present moment with adducing those which simply show that there was a probability of Christ's rejection. This is quickly done, since the passages indicate that the entire power of understanding was by the Creator taken from the people. "I will take away," says He, "the wisdom of their wise



3157 "Remember, O reader."

3158 Constitisse.

3159 Sociari cum.

3160 Marcion.

3161 The model of wise naval legislation, much of which found its way into the Roman pandects.

3162 Symbol of barbarism and ignorance—a heavy joke against the once seafaring heretic.

3163 Ignoratus, "rejected of men."

men; and the understanding of their prudent men will I hide;”³¹⁶⁴ and again: “With your ear ye shall hear, and not understand; and with your eyes ye shall see, but not perceive: for the heart of this people hath growth fat, and with their ears they hear heavily, and their eyes have they shut; lest they hear with their ears, and see with their eyes, and understand with the heart, and be converted, and I heal them.”³¹⁶⁵ Now this blunting of their sound senses they had brought on themselves, loving God with their lips, but keeping far away from Him in their heart. Since, then, Christ was announced by the Creator, “who formeth the lightning, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man His Christ,” as the prophet Joel says,³¹⁶⁶ since the entire hope of the Jews, not to say of the Gentiles too, was fixed on the manifestation of Christ,—it was demonstrated that they, by their being deprived of those powers of knowledge and understanding—wisdom and prudence, would fail to know and understand that which was predicted, even Christ; when the chief of their wise men should be in error respecting Him—that is to say, their scribes and prudent ones, or Pharisees; and when the people, like them, should hear with their ears and not understand Christ while teaching them, and see with their eyes and not perceive Christ, although giving them signs. Similarly it is said elsewhere: “Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, but he who ruleth over them?”³¹⁶⁷ Also when He upbraids them by the same Isaiah: “I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know; my people doth not consider.”³¹⁶⁸ We indeed, who know for certain that Christ always spoke in the prophets, as the Spirit of the Creator (for so says the prophet: “The person of our Spirit, Christ the Lord,”³¹⁶⁹ who from the beginning was both heard and seen as the Father’s vicegerent in the name of God), are well aware that His words, when actually upbraiding Israel, were the same as those which it was foretold that He should denounce against him: “Ye have forsaken the Lord, and have provoked the Holy One of Israel to anger.”³¹⁷⁰ If, however, you would rather refer to God Himself, instead of to Christ, the

3164 [Isa. xxix. 14.](#)

3165 [Isa. vi. 9, 10.](#) Quoted with some verbal differences.

3166 A supposed quotation of [Amos iv. 13.](#) See Oehler’s marginal reference. If so, the reference to Joel is either a slip of Tertullian or a corruption of his text; more likely the former, for the best mss. insert Joel’s name. [Amos iv. 13,](#) according to the LXX., runs, Ἀπαγγέλλων εἰς ἀνθρώπους τὸν Χριστὸν αὐτοῦ, which exactly suits Tertullian’s quotation. Junius supports the reference to Joel, supposing that Tertullian has his ch. ii. 31 in view, as compared with [Acts ii. 16–33.](#) This is too harsh an interpretation. It is simpler and better to suppose that Tertullian really meant to quote the LXX. of the passage in Amos, but in mistake named Joel as his prophet.

3167 [Isa. xlii. 19,](#) altered.

3168 [Isa. i. 2, 3.](#)

3169 This seems to be a translation with a slight alteration of the LXX. version of [Lam. iv. 20,](#) πνεῦμα προσώπου ἡμῶν Χριστὸς Κύριος .

3170 [Isa. i. 4.](#)

whole imputation of Jewish ignorance from the first, through an unwillingness to allow that even anciently³¹⁷¹ the Creator's word and Spirit—that is to say, His Christ—was despised and not acknowledged by them, you will even in this subterfuge be defeated. For when you do not deny that the Creator's Son and Spirit and Substance is also His Christ, you must needs allow that those who have not acknowledged the Father have failed likewise to acknowledge the Son through the identity of their natural substance;³¹⁷² for if in Its fulness It has baffled man's understanding, much more has a portion of It, especially when partaking of the fulness.³¹⁷³ Now, when these things are carefully considered, it becomes evident how the Jews both rejected Christ and slew Him; not because they regarded Him as a strange Christ, but because they did not acknowledge Him, although their own. For how could they have understood the strange One, concerning whom nothing had ever been announced, when they failed to understand Him about whom there had been a perpetual course of prophecy? That admits of being understood or being not understood, which, by possessing a substantial basis for prophecy,³¹⁷⁴ will also have a subject-matter³¹⁷⁵ for either knowledge or error; whilst that which lacks such matter admits not the issue of wisdom. So that it was not as if He belonged to another³¹⁷⁶ god that they conceived an aversion for Christ, and persecuted Him, but simply as a man whom they regarded as a wonder-working juggler,³¹⁷⁷ and an enemy³¹⁷⁸ in His doctrines. They brought Him therefore to trial as a mere man, and one of themselves too—that is, a Jew (only a renegade and a destroyer of Judaism)—and punished Him according to their law. If He had been a stranger, indeed, they would not have sat in judgment over Him. So far are they from appearing to have understood Him to be a strange Christ, that they did not even judge Him to be a stranger to their own human nature.³¹⁷⁹



3171 Retro.

3172 Per ejusdem substantiæ conditionem.

3173 He seems here to allude to such statements of God's being as [Col. ii. 9](#).

3174 Substantiam prædictionis.

3175 Materiam.

3176 Alterius, "the other," i.e., Marcion's rival God.

3177 Planum in signis, cf. the *Magnum in potestate* of Apolog. 21.

3178 Æmulum, "a rival," i.e., to Moses.

3179 Nec hominem ejus ut alienum judicaverunt, "His manhood they judged not to be different."

Chapter VII.—Prophecy Sets Forth Two Different Conditions of Christ, One Lowly, the Other Majestic. This Fact Points to Two Advents of Christ.

Our heretic will now have the fullest opportunity of learning the clue³¹⁸⁰ of his errors along with the Jew himself, from whom he has borrowed his guidance in this discussion. Since, however, the blind leads the blind, they fall into the ditch together. We affirm that, as there are two conditions demonstrated by the prophets to belong to Christ, so these presignified the same number of advents; one, and that the first, was to be in lowliness,³¹⁸¹ when He had to be led as a sheep to be slain as a victim, and to be as a lamb dumb before the shearer, not opening His mouth, and not fair to look upon.³¹⁸² For, says (the prophet), we have announced concerning Him: “He is like a tender plant,³¹⁸³ like a root out of a thirsty ground; He hath no form nor comeliness; and we beheld Him, and He was without beauty: His form was disfigured;”³¹⁸⁴ “marred more than the sons of men; a man stricken with sorrows, and knowing how to bear our infirmity;”³¹⁸⁵ “placed by the Father as a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence;”³¹⁸⁶ “made by Him a little lower than the angels;”³¹⁸⁷ declaring Himself to be “a worm and not a man, a reproach of men, and despised of the people.”³¹⁸⁸ Now these signs of degradation quite suit His first coming, just as the tokens of His majesty do His second advent, when He shall no longer remain “a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence,” but after His rejection become “the chief corner-stone,” accepted and elevated to the top place³¹⁸⁹ of the temple, even His church, being that very stone in Daniel, cut out of the mountain, which was to smite and crush the image of the secular kingdom.³¹⁹⁰ Of this advent the same prophet says: “Behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days; and they brought Him before Him, and there was given Him dominion and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away; and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”³¹⁹¹ Then indeed He shall

3180 Rationem.

3181 Humilitate.

3182 A reference to, rather than quotation from, [Isa. liii. 7](#).

3183 Sicut puerulus, “like a little boy,” or, “a sorry slave.”

3184 [Isa. liii. 2, 3](#), according to the Septuagint.

3185 See [Isa. lii. 14](#); [liii. 3, 4](#).

3186 [Isa. viii. 14](#).

3187 [Ps. viii. 6](#).

3188 [Ps. xxii. 7](#).

3189 Consummationem: an allusion to [Zech. iv. 7](#).

3190 See [Dan. ii. 34](#).

3191 [Dan. vii. 13, 14](#).

have both a glorious form, and an unsullied beauty above the sons of men. “Thou art fairer,” says (the Psalmist), “than the children of men; grace is poured into Thy lips; therefore God hath blessed Thee for ever. Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O most mighty, with Thy glory and Thy majesty.”³¹⁹² For the Father, after making Him a little lower than the angels, “will crown Him with glory and honour, and put all things under His feet.”³¹⁹³ “Then shall they look on Him whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, tribe after tribe;”³¹⁹⁴ because, no doubt, they once refused to acknowledge Him in the lowliness of His human condition. He is even a man, says Jeremiah, and who shall recognise Him. Therefore, asks Isaiah, “who shall declare His generation?”³¹⁹⁵ So also in Zechariah, Christ Jesus, the true High Priest of the Father, in the person of Joshua, nay, in the very mystery of His name,³¹⁹⁶ is portrayed in a twofold dress with reference to both His advents. At first He is clad in sordid garments, that is to say, in the lowliness of suffering and mortal flesh: then the devil resisted Him, as the instigator of the traitor Judas, not to mention his tempting Him after His baptism: afterwards He was stripped of His first filthy raiment, and adorned with the priestly robe³¹⁹⁷ and mitre, and a pure diadem;³¹⁹⁸ in other words, with the glory and honour of His second advent.³¹⁹⁹ If I may offer, moreover, an interpretation of the two goats which were presented on “the great day of atonement,”³²⁰⁰ do they not also figure the two natures of Christ? They were of like size, and very similar in appearance, owing to the Lord’s identity of aspect; because He is not to come in any other form, having to be recognised by those by whom He was also wounded and pierced. One of these goats was bound³²⁰¹ with scarlet,³²⁰² and driven by the people out of the camp³²⁰³ into the wilderness,³²⁰⁴ amid cursing, and spitting, and pulling, and piercing,³²⁰⁵ being thus marked with all the signs of



3192 Ps. xlv. 2, 3.

3193 Ps. viii. 5, 6.

3194 Zech. xiii. 10, 12.

3195 Isa. liii. 8.

3196 Joshua, i.e., Jesus.

3197 Podere.

3198 Cidari munda.

3199 See Zech. iii.

3200 Jejunio, see Lev. xvi. 5, 7, etc.

3201 Circumdatus.

3202 Perhaps in reference to Heb. ix. 19.

3203 Civitatem, “city.”

3204 In perditionem.

3205 This treatment of the scape-goat was partly ceremonial, partly disorderly. The Mischna (*Yoma* vi. 4–6) mentions the scarlet ribbon which was bound round the animal’s head between the horns, and the “pulling” (rather plucking out of its hair); but this latter was an indignity practised by scoffers and guarded against by

the Lord's own passion; while the other, by being offered up for sins, and given to the priests of the temple for meat, afforded proofs of His second appearance, when (after all sins have been expiated) the priests of the spiritual temple, that is, the church, are to enjoy the flesh, as it were,³²⁰⁶ of the Lord's own grace, whilst the residue go away from salvation without tasting it.³²⁰⁷ Since, therefore, the first advent was prophetically declared both as most obscure in its types, and as deformed with every kind of indignity, but the second as glorious and altogether worthy of God, they would on this very account, while confining their regards to that which they were easily able both to understand and to believe, even the second advent, be not undeservedly deceived respecting the more obscure, and, at any rate, the more lowly first coming. Accordingly, to this day they deny that their Christ has come, because He has not appeared in majesty, while they ignore the fact that He was to come also in lowliness.

Jews. Tertullian repeats the whole of this passage, *Adv. Jud.* xiv. Similar use is made of the type of the scape-goat by other fathers, as Justin Martyr (*Dial. cum Tryph.*) and Cyril of Alex. (*Epist. ad Acacium*). In this book ix. *Against Julian*, he expressly says: "Christ was described by the two goats,—as dying for us in the flesh, and then (as shown by the scape-goat) overcoming death in His divine nature." See Tertullian's passages illustrated fully in Rabbi Chiga, *Addit. ad Cod. de die Expiat.* (in Ugolini, *Thes.* i. 88).

3206 Quasi visceratione. [See Kaye's important comment, p. 426.]

3207 Jejunantibus.

Chapter VIII.—Absurdity of Marcion's Docetic Opinions; Reality of Christ's Incarnation.

Our heretic must now cease to borrow poison from the Jew—"the asp," as the adage runs, "from the viper"³²⁰⁸—and henceforth vomit forth the virulence of his own disposition, as when he alleges Christ to be a phantom. Except, indeed, that this opinion of his will be sure to have others to maintain it in his precocious and somewhat abortive Marcionites, whom the Apostle John designated as antichrists, when they denied that Christ was come in the flesh; not that they did this with the view of establishing the right of the other god (for on this point also they had been branded by the same apostle), but because they had started with assuming the incredibility of an incarnate God. Now, the more firmly the antichrist Marcion had seized this assumption, the more prepared was he, of course, to reject the bodily substance of Christ, since he had introduced his very god to our notice as neither the author nor the restorer of the flesh; and for this very reason, to be sure, as pre-eminently good, and most remote from the deceits and fallacies of the Creator. His Christ, therefore, in order to avoid all such deceits and fallacies, and the imputation, if possible, of belonging to the Creator, was not what he appeared to be, and feigned himself to be what he was not—incarnate without being flesh, human without being man, and likewise a divine Christ without being God! But why should he not have propagated also the phantom of God? Can I believe him on the subject of the internal nature, who was all wrong touching the external substance? How will it be possible to believe him true on a mystery, when he has been found so false on a plain fact? How, moreover, when he confounds the truth of the spirit with the error of the flesh,³²⁰⁹ could he combine within himself that communion of light and darkness, or truth and error, which the apostle says cannot co-exist?³²¹⁰ Since however, Christ's being flesh is now discovered to be a lie, it follows that all things which were done by the flesh of Christ were done untruly,³²¹¹—every act of intercourse,³²¹² of contact, of eating or drinking,³²¹³ yea, His very miracles. If with a touch, or by being touched, He freed any one of a disease, whatever was done by any corporeal act cannot be believed to have been truly done in the absence of all reality in His body itself. Nothing substantial can be allowed to have been effected by an unsubstantial thing; nothing full by a vacuity. If the habit were putative, the action was putative; if the worker were imaginary, the works were imaginary. On this



3208 So Epiphanius, *adv. Hæres.* l. 23. 7, quotes the same proverb, ὡς ἀσπίς παρ' ἐχίδνης ἰὸν δανιζομένη. [Tom. II. p. 144. Ed. Oehler.]

3209 As in his Docetic views of the body of Christ.

3210 [2 Cor. vi. 14.](#)

3211 Mendacio.

3212 Congressus.

3213 Convictus.

principle, too, the sufferings of Christ will be found not to warrant faith in Him. For He suffered nothing who did not truly suffer; and a phantom could not truly suffer. God's entire work, therefore, is subverted. Christ's death, wherein lies the whole weight and fruit of the Christian name, is denied although the apostle asserts³²¹⁴ it so expressly³²¹⁵ as undoubtedly real, making it the very foundation of the gospel, of our salvation and of his own preaching.³²¹⁶ "I have delivered unto you before all things," says he, "how that Christ died for our sins, and that he was buried, and that He rose again the third day." Besides, if His flesh is denied, how is His death to be asserted; for death is the proper suffering of the flesh, which returns through death back to the earth out of which it was taken, according to the law of its Maker? Now, if His death be denied, because of the denial of His flesh, there will be no certainty of His resurrection. For He rose not, for the very same reason that He died not, even because He possessed not the reality of the flesh, to which as death accrues, so does resurrection likewise. Similarly, if Christ's resurrection be nullified, ours also is destroyed. If Christ's *resurrection* be not realized,³²¹⁷ neither shall that be for which Christ came. For just as they, who said that there is no resurrection of the dead, are refuted by the apostle from the resurrection of Christ, so, if the resurrection of Christ falls to the ground, the resurrection of the dead is also swept away.³²¹⁸ And so our faith is vain, and vain also is the preaching of the apostles. Moreover, they even show themselves to be false witnesses of God, because they testified that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise. And we remain in our sins still.³²¹⁹ And those who have slept in Christ have perished; destined, forsooth,³²²⁰ to rise again, but peradventure in a phantom state,³²²¹ just like Christ.

3214 Demandat.

3215 Tam impresse, "so strongly."

3216 [1 Cor. xv. 3, 4, 14, 17, 18.](#)

3217 Valebit.

3218 Aufertur.

3219 [1 Cor. xv. 13-18.](#)

3220 Sane.

3221 Phantasmate forsitan.

Chapter IX.—Refutation of Marcion's Objections Derived from the Cases of the Angels, and the Pre-Incarnate Manifestations of the Son of God.

Now, in this discussion of yours,³²²² when you suppose that we are to be met with the case of the Creator's angels, as if they held intercourse with Abraham and Lot in a phantom state, that of merely putative flesh,³²²³ and yet did truly converse, and eat, and work, as they had been commissioned to do, you will not, to begin with, be permitted to use as examples the acts of that God whom you are destroying. For by how much you make your god a better and more perfect being, by just so much will all examples be unsuitable to him of that God from whom he totally differs, and without which difference he would not be at all better or more perfect. But then, secondly, you must know that it will not be conceded to you, that in the angels there was only a putative flesh, but one of a true and solid human substance. For if (on your terms) it was no difficulty to him to manifest true sensations and actions in a putative flesh, it was much more easy for him still to have assigned the true substance of flesh to these true sensations and actions, as the proper maker and former thereof. But your god, perhaps on the ground of his having produced no flesh at all, was quite right in introducing the mere phantom of that of which he had been unable to produce the reality. My God, however, who formed that which He had taken out of the dust of the ground in the true quality of flesh, although not issuing as yet from conjugal seed, was equally able to apply to angels too a flesh of any material whatsoever, who built even the world out of nothing, into so many and so various bodies, and that at a word! And, really, if your god promises to men some time or other the true nature of angels³²²⁴ (for he says, "They shall be like the angels"), why should not my God also have fitted on to angels the true substance of men, from whatever source derived? For not even you will tell me, in reply, whence is obtained that angelic nature on your side; so that it is enough for me to define this as being fit and proper to God, even the verity of that thing which was objective to three senses—sight, touch, and hearing. It is more difficult for God to practise deception³²²⁵ than to produce real flesh from any material whatever, even without the means of birth. But for other heretics, also, who maintain that the flesh in the angels ought to have been born of flesh, if it had been really human, we have an answer on a sure principle, to the effect that it was truly *human* flesh, and yet *not born*. It was truly human, because of the truthfulness of God, who can neither lie nor deceive, and because (angelic beings) cannot be dealt with by men in a human way except in human substance: it was withal unborn, because none³²²⁶ but Christ could

329

3222 Ista. [See Kaye, p. 205.]

3223 [Pamelius attributes this doctrine to Appelles a disciple of Marcion, of whom see Kaye, pp. 479, 480.]

3224 [Luke xx. 36.](#)

3225 Mentiri.

3226 i.e., among the angels.

become incarnate by being born of the flesh in order that by His own nativity He might regenerate³²²⁷ our birth, and might further by His death also dissolve our death, by rising again in that flesh in which, that He might even die, He was born. Therefore on that occasion He did Himself appear with the angels to Abraham in the verity of the flesh, which had not as yet undergone birth, because it was not yet going to die, although it was even now learning to hold intercourse amongst men. Still greater was the propriety in angels, who never received a dispensation to die for us, not having assumed even a brief experience³²²⁸ of flesh by being born, because they were not destined to lay it down again by dying; but, from whatever quarter they obtained it, and by what means soever they afterwards entirely divested themselves of it, they yet never pretended it to be unreal flesh. Since the Creator “maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire”—as truly spirits as also fire—so has He truly made them flesh likewise; wherefore we can now recall to our own minds, and remind the heretics also, that He has promised that He will one day form men into angels, who once formed angels into men.

3227 Reformaret.

3228 Commeatum.

Chapter X.—The Truly Incarnate State More Worthy of God Than Marcion's Fantastic Flesh.

Therefore, since you are not permitted to resort to any instances of the Creator, as alien from the subject, and possessing special causes of their own, I should like you to state yourself the design of your god, in exhibiting his Christ not in the reality of flesh. If he despised it as earthly, and (as you express it) full of dung,³²²⁹ why did he not on that account include the likeness of it also in his contempt? For no honour is to be attributed to the image of anything which is itself unworthy of honour. As the natural state is, so will the likeness be. But how could he hold converse with men except in the image of human substance?³²³⁰ Why, then, not rather in the reality thereof, that his intercourse might be real, since he was under the necessity of holding it? And to how much better account would this necessity have been turned by ministering to faith rather than to a fraud!³²³¹ The god whom you make is miserable enough, for this very reason that he was unable to display his Christ except in the effigy of an unworthy, and indeed an alien, thing. In some instances, it will be convenient to use even unworthy things, if they be only our own, as it will also be quite improper to use things, be they ever so worthy, if they be not our own.³²³² Why, then, did he not come in some other worthier substance, and especially his own, that he might not seem as if he could not have done without an unworthy and an alien one? Now, since my Creator held intercourse with man by means of even a bush and fire, and again afterwards by means of a cloud and column,³²³³ and in representations of Himself used bodies composed of the elements, these examples of divine power afford sufficient proof that God did not require the instrumentality of false or even of real flesh. But yet, if we look steadily into the subject, there is really no substance which is worthy of becoming a vestment for God. Whatsoever He is pleased to clothe Himself withal, He makes worthy of Himself—only without untruth.³²³⁴ Therefore how comes it to pass that he should have thought the verity of the flesh, rather than its unreality, a disgrace? Well, but he honoured it by his fiction of it. How great, then, is that flesh, the very phantasy of which was a necessity to the superior God!

3229 Stercoribus infersam.

3230 A Marcionite argument.

3231 Stropham, a player's trick; so in *Spectac.* 29.

3232 Alienis.

3233 Globum.

3234 Mendacio.

Chapter XI.—Christ Was Truly Born; Marcion's Absurd Cavil in Defence of a Putative Nativity.

All these illusions of an imaginary corporeity³²³⁵ in (his) Christ, Marcion adopted with this view, that his nativity also might not be furnished with any evidence from his human substance, and that thus the Christ of the Creator might be free to have assigned to Him all predictions which treated of Him as one capable of human birth, and therefore fleshly. But most foolishly did our Pontic heresiarch act in this too. As if it would not be more readily believed that flesh in the Divine Being should rather be unborn than untrue, this belief having in fact had the way mainly prepared for it by the Creator's angels when they conversed in flesh which was real, although unborn. For indeed the notorious Philumena³²³⁶ persuaded Apelles and the other seceders from Marcion rather to believe that Christ did really carry about a body of flesh; not derived to Him, however, from birth, but one which He borrowed from the elements. Now, as Marcion was apprehensive that a belief of the fleshly body would also involve a belief of birth, undoubtedly He who seemed to be man was believed to be verily and indeed born. For a certain woman had exclaimed, "Blessed is the womb that bare Thee, and the paps which Thou hast sucked!"³²³⁷ And how else could they have said that His mother and His brethren were standing without?³²³⁸ But we shall see more of this in the proper place.³²³⁹ Surely, when He also proclaimed Himself as the Son of man, He, without doubt, confessed that He had been born. Now I would rather refer all these points to an examination of the gospel; but still, as I have already stated, if he, who seemed to be man, had by all means to pass as having been born, it was vain for him to suppose that faith in his nativity was to be perfected³²⁴⁰ by the device of an imaginary flesh. For what advantage was there in that being not true which was held to be true, whether it were his flesh or his birth? Or if you should say, let human opinion go for nothing;³²⁴¹ you are then honouring your god under the shelter of a deception, since he knew himself to be something different from what he had made men to think of him. In that case you might possibly have assigned



3235 Corpulentiaē.

3236 This woman is called in *De Præscr. Hæret.* 6, "an angel of deceit," and (in 30) "a virgin, but afterwards a monstrous prostitute." Our author adds: "Induced by her tricks and miracles, Apelles introduced a new heresy." See also Eusebius, *Hist. Eccl.* v. 13; Augustin, *De Hæres.* 42; Hieronymus, *Epist. adv. Ctesiph.* p. 477, tom. iv. ed. Benedictin.

3237 [Luke xi. 27.](#)

3238 [Luke viii. 20.](#)

3239 Below, iv. 26; also in *De carne Christi*, cap. vii.

3240 Expungendam, "consummated," a frequent use of the word in our author.

3241 Viderit opinio humana.

to him a putative nativity even, and so not have hung the question on this point. For silly women fancy themselves pregnant sometimes, when they are corpulent³²⁴² either from their natural flux³²⁴³ or from some other malady. And, no doubt, it had become his duty, since he had put on the mere mask of his substance, to act out from its earliest scene the play of his phantasy, lest he should have failed in his part at the beginning of the flesh. You have, of course,³²⁴⁴ rejected the sham of a nativity, and have produced true flesh itself. And, no doubt, even the real nativity of a God is a most mean thing.³²⁴⁵ Come then, wind up your cavils³²⁴⁶ against the most sacred and reverend works of nature; inveigh against all that you are; destroy the origin of flesh and life; call the womb a sewer of the illustrious animal—in other words, the manufactory for the production of man; dilate on the impure and shameful tortures of parturition, and then on the filthy, troublesome, contemptible issues of the puerperal labour itself! But yet, after you have pulled all these things down to infamy, that you may affirm them to be unworthy of God, birth will not be worse for Him than death, infancy than the cross, punishment than nature, condemnation than the flesh. If Christ truly suffered all this, to be born was a less thing for Him. If Christ suffered evasively,³²⁴⁷ as a phantom; evasively, too, might He have been born. Such are Marcion's chief arguments by which he makes out another Christ; and I think that we show plainly enough that they are utterly irrelevant, when we teach how much more truly consistent with God is the reality rather than the falsehood of that condition³²⁴⁸ in which He manifested His Christ. Since He was "the truth," He was flesh; since He was flesh, He was born. For the points which this heresy assaults are confirmed, when the means of the assault are destroyed. Therefore if He is to be considered in the flesh,³²⁴⁹ because He was born; and born, because He is in the flesh, and because He is no phantom,—it follows that He must be acknowledged as Himself the very Christ of the Creator, who was by the Creator's prophets foretold as about to come in the flesh, and by the process of human birth.³²⁵⁰

3242 Inflatae.

3243 Sanguinis tributo.

3244 Plane, ironically said.

3245 Turpissimum.

3246 Perora.

3247 Mendacio.

3248 Habitus.

3249 Carneus.

3250 Ex nativitate.

Chapter XII.—Isaiah's Prophecy of Emmanuel. Christ Entitled to that Name.

And challenge us first, as is your wont, to consider Isaiah's description of Christ, while you contend that in no point does it suit. For, to begin with, you say that Isaiah's Christ will have to be called Emmanuel;³²⁵¹ then, that He takes the riches of Damascus and the spoils of Samaria against the king of Assyria.³²⁵² But yet He who is come was neither born under such a name, nor ever engaged in any warlike enterprise. I must, however, remind you that you ought to look into the contexts³²⁵³ of the two passages. For there is immediately added the interpretation of Emmanuel, "God with us;" so that you have to consider not merely the name as it is uttered, but also its meaning. The utterance is Hebrew, *Emmanuel*, of the prophet's own nation; but the meaning of the word, *God with us*, is by the interpretation made common property. Inquire, then, whether this name, God-with-us, which is Emmanuel, be not often used for the name of Christ,³²⁵⁴ from the fact that Christ has enlightened the world. And I suppose you will not deny it, inasmuch as you do yourself admit that He is called God-with-us, that is, Emmanuel. Else if you are so foolish, that, because with you He gets the designation God-with-us, not Emmanuel, you therefore are unwilling to grant that He is come whose property it is to be called Emmanuel, as if this were not the same name as God-with-us, you will find among the Hebrew Christians, and amongst Marcionites too, that they name Him Emmanuel when they mean Him to be called God-with-us; just indeed as every nation, by whatever word they would express God-with-us, has called Him Emmanuel, completing the sound in its sense. Now since Emmanuel is God-with-us, and God-with-us is Christ, who is in us (for "as many of you as are baptized into Christ, have put on Christ"³²⁵⁵), Christ is as properly implied in the meaning of the name, which is God-with-us, as He is in the pronunciation of the name, which is Emmanuel. And thus it is evident that He is now come who was foretold as Emmanuel, because what Emmanuel signifies is come, that is to say, God-with-us.



3251 [Isa. vii. 14.](#)

3252 [Isa. viii. 4.](#) Compare *adv. Judæos*, 9.

3253 Cohærentia.

3254 Agitetur in Christo.

3255 [Gal. iii. 27.](#)

Chapter XIII.—Isaiah's Prophecies Considered. The Virginity of Christ's Mother a Sign. Other Prophecies Also Signs. Metaphorical Sense of Proper Names in Sundry Passages of the Prophets.

You are equally led away by the sound of names,³²⁵⁶ when you so understand the riches of Damascus, and the spoils of Samaria, and the king of Assyria, as if they portended that the Creator's Christ was a warrior, not attending to the promise contained in the passage, "For before the Child shall have knowledge to cry, My father and My mother, He shall take away the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria before the king of Assyria."³²⁵⁷ You should first examine the point of age, whether it can be taken to represent Christ as even yet a man,³²⁵⁸ much less a warrior. Although, to be sure, He might be about to call to arms by His cry as an infant; might be about to sound the alarm of war not with a trumpet, but with a little rattle; might be about to seek His foe, not on horseback, or in chariot, or from parapet, but from nurse's neck or nursemaid's back, and so be destined to subjugate Damascus and Samaria from His mother's breasts! It is a different matter, of course, when the babes of your barbarian Pontus spring forth to the fight. They are, I ween, taught to lance before they lacerate;³²⁵⁹ swathed at first in sunshine and ointment,³²⁶⁰ afterwards armed with the satchel,³²⁶¹ and rationed on bread and butter!³²⁶² Now, since nature, certainly, nowhere grants to man to learn warfare before life, to pillage the wealth of a Damascus before he knows his father and mother's name, it follows that the passage in question must be deemed to be a figurative one. Well, but nature, says he, does not permit "a virgin to conceive," and still the prophet is believed. And indeed very properly; for he has paved the way for the incredible thing being believed, by giving a reason for its occurrence, in that it was to be for a sign. "Therefore," says he, "the Lord himself shall give you a *sign*; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son."³²⁶³ Now a sign from God would not have been a sign,³²⁶⁴ unless it had been some novel and prodigious thing. Then, again, Jewish cavillers, in order to disconcert us, boldly pretend that Scripture does not hold³²⁶⁵ that a virgin, but only a

3256 Compare with this chapter, T.'s *adv. Judæos*, 9.

3257 [Isa. viii. 4.](#)

3258 Jam hominem, jam virum in *Adv. Judæos*, "at man's estate."

3259 Lanceare ante quam lancinare. This play on words points to the very early training of the barbarian boys to war. *Lancinare* perhaps means, "to nibble the nipple with the gum."

3260 He alludes to the suppling of their young joints with oil, and then drying them in the sun.

3261 Pannis.

3262 Butyro.

3263 [Isa. vii. 14.](#)

3264 The *tam dignum* of this place is "jam signum" in *adv. Judæos*.

3265 Contineat.

young woman,³²⁶⁶ is to conceive and bring forth. They are, however, refuted by this consideration, that nothing of the nature of a sign can possibly come out of what is a daily occurrence, the pregnancy and child-bearing of a young woman. A virgin mother is justly deemed to be proposed³²⁶⁷ by God as a sign, but a warlike infant has no like claim to the distinction; for even in such a case³²⁶⁸ there does not occur the character of a sign. But after the sign of the strange and novel birth has been asserted, there is immediately afterwards declared as a sign the subsequent course of the Infant,³²⁶⁹ who was to eat butter and honey. Not that this indeed is of the nature of a sign, nor is His “refusing the evil;” for this, too, is only a characteristic of infancy.³²⁷⁰ But His destined capture of the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria before the king of Assyria is *no doubt a wonderful sign*.³²⁷¹ Keep to the measure of His age, and seek the purport of the prophecy, and give back also to the truth of the gospel what you have taken away from it in the lateness of your heresy,³²⁷² and the prophecy at once becomes intelligible and declares its own accomplishment. Let those eastern magi wait on the new-born Christ, presenting to Him, (although) in His infancy, their gifts of gold and frankincense; and surely an Infant will have received the riches of Damascus without a battle, and unarmed.

For besides the generally known fact, that the riches of the East, that is to say, its strength and resources, usually consist of gold and spices, it is certainly true of the Creator, that He makes gold the riches of the other³²⁷³ nations also. Thus He says by Zechariah: “And Judah shall also fight at Jerusalem and shall gather together all the wealth of the nations round about, gold and silver.”³²⁷⁴ Moreover, respecting that gift of gold, David also says: “And there shall be given to Him of the gold of Arabia;”³²⁷⁵ and again: “The kings of Arabia and

3266 This opinion of Jews and Judaizing heretics is mentioned by Irenæus, *Adv. Hæret.* iii. 21 (Stieren's ed. i. 532); Eusebius, *Hist. Eccles.* v. 8; Jerome, *Adv. Helvid.* (ed. Benedict), p. 132. Nor has the cavil ceased to be held, as is well known, to the present day. The **אֵשֶׁת מְנַחֵם** of *Isa. vii. 4* is supposed by the Jewish Fuerst to be *Isaiah's wife*, and he quotes Kimchi's authority; while the neologian Gesenius interprets the word, a *bride*, and rejects the Catholic notion of an unspotted virgin. To make way, however, for their view, both Fuerst and Gesenius have to reject the LXX. rendering, *παρθένος*.

3267 Disposita.

3268 Et hic.

3269 Alius ordo jam infantis.

3270 Infantia est. Better in *adv. Judæos*, “est infantia.”

3271 The italicised words we have added from *adv. Judæos*, “hoc est mirabile signum.”

3272 Posterior. *Posteritas* is an attribute of heresy in T.'s view.

3273 Ceterarum, other than the Jews, i.e., Gentiles.

3274 [Zech. xiv. 14.](#)

3275 [Ps. lxxii. 15.](#)

Saba shall offer to Him gifts.”³²⁷⁶ For the East generally regarded the magi as kings; and Damascus was anciently deemed to belong to Arabia, before it was transferred to Syrophœnicia on the division of the Syrias (by Rome).³²⁷⁷ Its riches Christ then received, when He received the tokens thereof in the gold and spices; while the spoils of Samaria were the magi themselves. These having discovered Him and honoured Him with their gifts, and on bended knee adored Him as their God and King, through the witness of the star which led their way and guided them, became the spoils of Samaria, that is to say, of idolatry, because, as it is easy enough to see,³²⁷⁸ they believed in Christ. He designated idolatry under the name of Samaria, as that city was shameful for its idolatry, through which it had then revolted from God from the days of king Jeroboam. Nor is this an unusual manner for the Creator, (in His Scriptures³²⁷⁹) figuratively to employ names of places as a metaphor derived from the analogy of their sins. Thus He calls the chief men of the Jews “rulers of Sodom,” and the nation itself “people of Gomorrah.”³²⁸⁰ And in another passage He also says: “Thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite,”³²⁸¹ by reason of their kindred iniquity;³²⁸² although He had actually called them His sons: “I have nourished and brought up *children*.”³²⁸³ So likewise by Egypt is sometimes understood, in His sense,³²⁸⁴ the whole world as being marked out by superstition and a curse.³²⁸⁵ By a similar usage Babylon also in our (St.) John is a figure of the city of Rome, as being like (Babylon) great and proud in royal power, and warring down the saints of God. Now it was in accordance with this style that He called the magi by the name of Samaritans, because (as we have said) they had practised idolatry as did the Samaritans. Moreover, by the phrase “before *or against* the king of Assyria,” understand “against Herod;” against whom the magi then opposed themselves, when they refrained from carrying him back word concerning Christ, whom he was seeking to destroy.

3276 Ps. lxxii. 10.

3277 See Otto's *Justin Martyr*, ii. 273, n. 23. [See Vol. I. p. 238, *supra*.]

3278 Videlicet.

3279 The *Creatori* here answers to the *Scripturis divinis* of the parallel passage in *adv. Judæos*. Of course there is a special force in this use of the *Creator's* name here against Marcion.

3280 Isa. i. 10.

3281 Ezek. xvi. 3.

3282 To the sins of these nations.

3283 Isa. i. 2.

3284 Apud illum, i.e., Creatorem.

3285 Maledictionis.

Chapter XIV.—Figurative Style of Certain Messianic Prophecies in the Psalms.
Military Metaphors Applied to Christ.

This interpretation of ours will derive confirmation, when, on your supposing that Christ is in any passage called a warrior, from the mention of certain arms and expressions of that sort, you weigh well the analogy of their other meanings, and draw your conclusions accordingly. “Gird on Thy sword,” says David, “upon Thy thigh.”³²⁸⁶ But what do you read about Christ just before? “Thou art fairer than the children of men; grace is poured forth upon Thy lips.”³²⁸⁷ It amuses me to imagine that blandishments of fair beauty and graceful lips are ascribed to one who had to gird on His sword for war! So likewise, when it is added, “Ride on prosperously in Thy majesty,”³²⁸⁸ the reason is subjoined: “Because of truth, and meekness, and righteousness.”³²⁸⁹ But who shall produce *these* results with the sword, and not their opposites rather—deceit, and harshness, and injury—which, it must be confessed, are the proper business of battles? Let us see, therefore, whether that is not some other sword, which has so different an action. Now the Apostle John, in the Apocalypse, describes a sword which proceeded from the mouth of God as “a doubly sharp, two-edged one.”³²⁹⁰ This may be understood to be the Divine Word, who is doubly edged with the two testaments of the law and the gospel—sharpened with wisdom, hostile to the devil, arming us against the spiritual enemies of all wickedness and concupiscence, and cutting us off from the dearest objects for the sake of God’s holy name. If, however, you will not acknowledge John, you have our common master Paul, who “girds our loins about with truth, and puts on us the breastplate of righteousness, and shoes us with the preparation of the gospel of peace, not of war; who bids us take the shield of faith, wherewith we may be able to quench all the fiery darts of the devil, and the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which (he says) is the word of God.”³²⁹¹ This sword the Lord Himself came to send on earth, and not peace.³²⁹² If he is your Christ, then even he is a warrior. If he is not a warrior, and the sword he brandishes is an allegorical one, then the Creator’s Christ in the psalm too may have been girded with the figurative sword of the Word, without any martial gear. The above-mentioned “fairness” of His beauty and “grace of His lips” would quite suit such a sword, girt as it even then was upon His thigh in the passage of David, and sent as it would one day be by Him



3286 Ps. xlv. 3.

3287 Ps. xlv. 2.

3288 Literally, “Advance, and prosper, and reign.”

3289 Ps. xlv. 4.

3290 Rev. i. 16.

3291 Eph. vi. 14–17.

3292 Matt. x. 34.

on earth. For this is what He says: “Ride on prosperously in Thy majesty³²⁹³”—*advancing* His word into every land, so as to call all nations: destined to *prosper* in the success of that faith which received Him, and *reigning*, from the fact that³²⁹⁴ He conquered death by His resurrection. “Thy right hand,” says He, “shall wonderfully lead Thee forth,”³²⁹⁵ even the might of Thy spiritual grace, whereby the knowledge of Christ is spread. “Thine arrows are sharp;”³²⁹⁶ everywhere Thy precepts fly about, Thy threatenings also, and convictions³²⁹⁷ of heart, pricking and piercing each conscience. “The people shall fall under Thee,”³²⁹⁸ that is, in adoration. Thus is the Creator’s Christ mighty in war, and a bearer of arms; thus also does He now take the spoils, not of Samaria alone, but of all nations. Acknowledge, then, that His spoils are figurative, since you have learned that His arms are allegorical. Since, therefore, both the Lord speaks and His apostle writes such things³²⁹⁹ in a figurative style, we are not rash in using His interpretations, the records³³⁰⁰ of which even our adversaries admit; and thus in *so far* will it be Isaiah’s Christ who has come, in *as far* as He was not a warrior, because it is not of such a character that He is described by Isaiah.

3293 “Advance, and prosper, and reign.”

3294 Exinde qua.

3295 [Ps. xlv. 4](#), but changed.

3296 [Ps. xlv. 5](#).

3297 Traductiones.

3298 [Ps. xlv. 5](#).

3299 Ejusmodi.

3300 Exempla.

Chapter XV.—The Title Christ Suitable as a Name of the Creator's Son, But Unsuitable to Marcion's Christ.

Touching then the discussion of His flesh, and (through that) of His nativity, and incidentally³³⁰¹ of His name Emmanuel, let this suffice. Concerning His other names, however, and especially that of Christ, what has the other side to say in reply? If the name of Christ is as common with you as is the name of God—so that as the Son of both Gods may be fitly called Christ, so each of the Fathers may be called Lord—reason will certainly be opposed to this argument. For the name of God, as being the natural designation of Deity, may be ascribed to all those beings for whom a divine nature is claimed,—as, for instance, even to idols. The apostle says: “For there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth.”³³⁰² The name of Christ, however, does not arise from nature, but from dispensation;³³⁰³ and so becomes the proper name of Him to whom it accrues in consequence of the dispensation. Nor is it subject to be shared in by any other God, especially a rival, and one that has a dispensation of His own, to whom it will be also necessary that He should possess names apart from all others. For how happens it that, after they have devised different dispensations for two Gods they admit into this diversity of dispensation a *community* of names; whereas no proof could be more useful of two Gods being rival ones, than if there should be found coincident with their (diverse) dispensations a diversity also of names? For that is not a state of *diverse* qualities, which is not distinctly indicated³³⁰⁴ in the specific meanings³³⁰⁵ of their designations. Whenever these are wanting, there occurs what the Greeks call the *katachresis*³³⁰⁶ of a term, by its improper application to what does not belong to it.³³⁰⁷ In God, however, there ought, I suppose, to be no defect, no setting up of His dispensations by *katachrestic* abuse of words. Who is this god, that claims for his son names from the Creator? I say not names which do not belong to him, but ancient and well-known names, which even in this view of them would be unsuitable for a novel and unknown god. How is it, again, that he tells us that “a piece of new cloth is not sewed on to an old garment,” or that “new wine is not trusted to old bottles,”³³⁰⁸ when he is himself patched and clad in an old



3301 Interim.

3302 1 Cor. viii. 5.

3303 Ex dispositione. This word seems to mean what is implied in the phrases, “Christian *dispensation*,” “Mosaic *dispensation*,” etc.

3304 Consignatur.

3305 Proprietatibus.

3306 Quintilian, *Inst.* viii. 6, defines this as a figure “which lends a name to things which have it not.”

3307 De alieno abutendo.

3308 Matt. ix. 16, 17.

suit³³⁰⁹ of names? How is it he has rent off the gospel from the law, when he is wholly invested with the law,—in the name, forsooth, of Christ? What hindered his calling himself by some other name, seeing that he preached another (gospel), came from another source, and refused to take on him a real body, for the very purpose that he might not be supposed to be the Creator's Christ? Vain, however, was his unwillingness to seem to be He whose name he was willing to assume; since, even if he had been truly corporeal, he would more certainly escape being taken for the Christ of the Creator, if he had not taken on him His name. But, as it is, he rejects the substantial verity of Him whose name he has assumed, even though he should give a proof of that verity by his name. For Christ means *anointed*, and to be anointed is certainly an affair³³¹⁰ of the body. He who had not a body, could not by any possibility have been anointed; he who could not by any possibility have been anointed, could not in any wise have been called Christ. It is a different thing (quite), if he only assumed the phantom of a name too. But how, he asks, was he to insinuate himself into being believed by the Jews, except through a name which was usual and familiar amongst them? Then 'tis a fickle and tricksty God whom you describe! To promote any plan by deception, is the resource of either distrust or of maliciousness. Much more frank and simple was the conduct of the false prophets against the Creator, when they came in His name as their own God.³³¹¹ But I do not find that any good came of this proceeding,³³¹² since they were more apt to suppose either that Christ was their own, or rather was some deceiver, than that He was the Christ of the other god; and this the gospel will show.

3309 Senio.

3310 Passio.

3311 Adversus Creatorem, in sui Dei nomine venientes.

3312 i.e., to the Marcionite position.

Chapter XVI.—The Sacred Name Jesus Most Suited to the Christ of the Creator.
Joshua a Type of Him.

Now if he caught at the name *Christ*, just as the pickpocket clutches the dole-basket, why did he wish to be called *Jesus* too, by a name which was not so much looked for by the Jews? For although we, who have by God's grace attained to the understanding of His mysteries, acknowledge that *this* name also was destined for Christ, yet, for all that, the fact was not known to the Jews, from whom wisdom was taken away. To this day, in short, it is Christ that they are looking for, not Jesus; and they interpret Elias to be Christ rather than Jesus. He, therefore, who came also in a name in which Christ was not expected, might have come only in that name which was solely anticipated for Him.³³¹³ But since he has mixed up the two,³³¹⁴ the expected one and the unexpected, his twofold project is defeated. For if he be *Christ* for the very purpose of insinuating himself as the Creator's, then *Jesus* opposes him, because Jesus was not looked for in the Christ of the Creator; or if he be *Jesus*, in order that he might pass as belonging to the other (God), then *Christ* hinders him, because Christ was not expected to belong to any other than the Creator. I know not which one of these names may be able to hold its ground.³³¹⁵ In the Christ of the Creator, however, both will keep their place, for in *Him* a Jesus too is found. Do you ask, how? Learn it then here, with the Jews also who are partakers of your heresy. When Oshea the son of Nun was destined to be the successor of Moses, is not his old name then changed, and for the first time he is called³³¹⁶ Joshua? It is true, you say. This, then, we first observe, was a figure of Him who was to come. For inasmuch as Jesus Christ was to introduce a new generation³³¹⁷ (because we are born in the wilderness of this world) into the promised land which flows with milk and honey, that is, into the possession of eternal life, than which nothing can be sweeter; inasmuch, too, as this was to be brought about not by Moses, that is to say, not by the discipline of the law, but by Joshua, by the grace of the gospel, our circumcision being effected by a knife of stone, that is, (by the circumcision) of Christ, for Christ is a rock (or stone), therefore that great man,³³¹⁸ who was ordained as a type of this mystery, was actually consecrated with the figure of the Lord's own name, being called Joshua. This name Christ Himself even then testified to be His own, when He talked with Moses. For who was it that talked with him, but the Spirit of the Creator, which is Christ? When He therefore spake this commandment to the people, "Behold, I send my angel before thy face, to keep thee in

3313 That is, Christ.

3314 Surely it is *Duo*, not *Deo*.

3315 Constare.

3316 Incipit vocari.

3317 Secundum populum.

3318 Vir.

the way, and to bring thee into the land which I have prepared for thee; attend to him, and obey his voice and do not provoke him; for he has not shunned you,³³¹⁹ since my name is upon him,”³³²⁰ He called him an *angel* indeed, because of the greatness of the powers which he was to exercise, and because of his prophetic office,³³²¹ while announcing the will of God; but *Joshua* also (Jesus), because it was a type³³²² of His own future name. Often³³²³ did He confirm that name of His which He had thus conferred upon (His servant); because it was not the name of *angel*, nor *Oshea*, but *Joshua* (Jesus), which He had commanded him to bear as his usual appellation for the time to come. Since, therefore, both these names are suitable to the Christ of the Creator, they are proportionately unsuitable to the *non-Creator's* Christ; and so indeed is all the rest of (our Christ's) destined course.³³²⁴ In short, there must now for the future be made between us that certain and equitable rule, necessary to both sides, which shall determine that there ought to be absolutely nothing at all in common between the Christ of the other god and the Creator's Christ. For you will have as great a necessity to maintain their diversity as we have to resist it, inasmuch as *you* will be as unable to show that the Christ of the other god has come, until you have proved him to be a far different being from the Creator's Christ, as *we*, to claim Him (who has come) as the Creator's, until we have shown Him to be such a one as the Creator has appointed. Now respecting their names, such is our conclusion against (Marcion).³³²⁵ I claim for myself Christ; I maintain for myself Jesus.

3319 Non celavit te, “not concealed Himself from you.”

3320 Ex. xxiii. 20, 21.

3321 Officium prophetæ.

3322 Sacramentum.

3323 Identidem.

3324 Reliquus ordo.

3325 Obduximus.

Chapter XVII.—Prophecies in Isaiah and the Psalms Respecting Christ's Humiliation.

Let us compare with Scripture the rest of His dispensation. Whatever that poor despised body³³²⁶ may be, because it was an object of touch³³²⁷ and sight,³³²⁸ it shall be my Christ, be He inglorious, be He ignoble, be He dishonoured; for such was it announced that He should be, both in bodily condition and aspect. Isaiah comes to our help again: "We have announced (His way) before Him," says he; "He is like a servant,³³²⁹ like a root in a dry ground; He hath no form nor comeliness; we saw Him, and He had neither form nor beauty; but His form was despised, marred above all men."³³³⁰ Similarly the Father addressed the Son just before: "Inasmuch as many will be astonished at Thee, so also will Thy beauty be without glory from men."³³³¹ For although, in David's words, He is fairer than the children of men,³³³² yet it is in that figurative state of spiritual grace, when He is girded with the sword of the Spirit, which is verily His form, and beauty, and glory. According to the same prophet, however, He is in bodily condition "a very worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and an outcast of the people."³³³³ But no internal quality of such a kind does He announce as belonging to Him. In Him dwelt the fulness of the Spirit; therefore I acknowledge Him to be "the rod of the stem of Jesse." His blooming flower shall be my Christ, upon whom hath rested, according to Isaiah, "the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of piety, and of the fear of the Lord."³³³⁴ Now to no man, except Christ, would the diversity of spiritual proofs suitably apply. He is indeed like a flower for the Spirit's grace, reckoned indeed of the stem of Jesse, but thence to derive His descent through Mary. Now I purposely demand of you, whether you grant to Him the destination³³³⁵ of all this humiliation, and suffering, and tranquillity, from which He will be the Christ of Isaiah,—a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, who was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and who, like a lamb before the shearer, opened not His



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- 3326 Corpusculum illud.
3327 Habitum.
3328 Conspectum.
3329 Puerulus, "little child," perhaps.
3330 Sentences out of *Isa. lii. 14* and *liii. 2*, etc.
3331 *Isa. lii. 14*.
3332 *Ps. xlv. 2*.
3333 *Ps. xxii. 6*.
3334 *Isa. xi. 1, 2*.
3335 Intentionem.

mouth;³³³⁶ who did not struggle nor cry, nor was His voice heard in the street who broke not the bruised reed—that is, the shattered faith of the Jews—nor quenched the smoking flax—that is, the freshly-kindled³³³⁷ ardour of the Gentiles. He can be none other than the Man who was foretold. It is right that His conduct³³³⁸ be investigated according to the rule of Scripture, distinguishable as it is unless I am mistaken, by the twofold operation of preaching³³³⁹ and of miracle. But the treatment of both these topics I shall so arrange as to postpone, to the chapter wherein I have determined to discuss the actual gospel of Marcion, the consideration of His wonderful doctrines and miracles—with a view, however, to our present purpose. Let us here, then, in general terms complete the subject which we had entered upon, by indicating, as we pass on,³³⁴⁰ how Christ was fore-announced by Isaiah as a preacher: “For who is there among you,” says he, “that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of His Son?”³³⁴¹ And likewise as a healer: “For,” says he, “He hath taken away our infirmities, and carried our sorrows.”³³⁴²

3336 [Isa. liii. 3, 7.](#)

3337 [Momentaneum.](#)

3338 [Actum.](#)

3339 [Prædicationis.](#)

3340 [Interim.](#)

3341 [Isa. l. 10.](#)

3342 [Isa. liii. 4.](#)

Chapter XVIII.³³⁴³—Types of the Death of Christ. Isaac; Joseph; Jacob Against Simeon and Levi; Moses Praying Against Amalek; The Brazen Serpent.

On the subject of His death,³³⁴⁴ I suppose, you endeavour to introduce a diversity of opinion, simply because you deny that the suffering of the cross was predicted of the Christ of the Creator, and because you contend, moreover, that it is not to be believed that the Creator would expose His Son to that kind of death on which He had Himself pronounced a curse. “Cursed,” says He, “is every one who hangeth on a tree.”³³⁴⁵ But what is meant by this curse, worthy as it is of the simple prediction of the cross, of which we are now mainly inquiring, I defer to consider, because in another passage³³⁴⁶ we have given the reason³³⁴⁷ of the thing preceded by proof. First, I shall offer a full explanation³³⁴⁸ of the types. And no doubt it was proper that this mystery should be prophetically set forth by types, and indeed chiefly by that method: for in proportion to its incredibility would it be a stumbling-block, if it were set forth in bare prophecy; and in proportion too, to its grandeur, was the need of obscuring it in shadow,³³⁴⁹ that the difficulty of understanding it might lead to prayer for the grace of God. First, then, Isaac, when he was given up by his father as an offering, himself carried the wood for his own death. By this act he even then was setting forth the death of Christ, who was destined by His Father as a sacrifice, and carried the cross whereon He suffered. Joseph likewise was a type of Christ, not indeed on this ground (that I may not delay my course³³⁵⁰), that he suffered persecution for the cause of God from his brethren, as Christ did from His brethren after the flesh, the Jews; but when he is blessed by his father in these words: “His glory is that of a bullock; his horns are the horns of a unicorn; with them shall he push the nations to the very ends of the earth,”³³⁵¹—he was not, of course,

3343 Compare *adv. Judæos*, chap. 10. [pp. 165, 166, *supra*.]

3344 De exitu.

3345 Compare *Deut. xxi. 23* with *Gal. iii. 13*.

3346 The words “quiaet aliasantecedit rerum probatio rationem,” seem to refer to the parallel passage in *adv. Judæos*, where he has described the Jewish law of capital punishment, and argued for the exemption of Christ from its terms. He begins that paragraph with saying, “Sed hujus maledictionis sensum antecedit rerum ratio.” [See, p. 164, *supra*.]

3347 Perhaps *rationale* or procedure.

3348 Edocebo.

3349 Magis obumbrandum.

3350 But he may mean, by “*ne demorer cursum*,” “that I may not obstruct the course of the type,” by taking off attention from its true force. In the parallel place, however, another turn is given to the sense; Joseph is a type, “*even on this ground*—that I may but briefly allude to it—that he suffered,” etc.

3351 *Deut. xxxiii. 17*.

designated as a mere unicorn with its one horn, or a minotaur with two; but Christ was indicated in him—a bullock in respect of both His characteristics: to some as severe as a Judge, to others gentle as a Saviour, whose horns were the extremities of His cross. For of the antenna, which is a part of a cross, the ends are called *horns*; while the midway stake of the whole frame is the *unicorn*. By this virtue, then, of His cross, and in this manner “horned,” He is both now pushing all nations through faith, bearing them away from earth to heaven; and will then push them through judgment, casting them down from heaven to earth. He will also, according to another passage in the same scripture, be a bullock, when He is spiritually interpreted to be Jacob against Simeon and Levi, which means against the scribes and the Pharisees; for it was from them that these last derived their origin.³³⁵² Like Simeon and Levi, they consummated their wickedness by their heresy, with which they persecuted Christ. “Into their counsel let not my soul enter; to their assembly let not my heart be united: for in their anger they slew men,” that is, the prophets; “and in their self-will they hacked the sinews of a bullock,”³³⁵³ that is, of Christ. For against Him did they wreak their fury after they had slain His prophets, even by affixing Him with nails to the cross. Otherwise, it is an idle thing³³⁵⁴ when, after slaying men, he inveighs against them for the torture of a bullock! Again, in the case of Moses, wherefore did he at that moment particularly, when Joshua was fighting Amalek, pray in a sitting posture with outstretched hands, when in such a conflict it would surely have been more seemly to have bent the knee, and smitten the breast, and to have fallen on the face to the ground, and in such prostration to have offered prayer? Wherefore, but because in a battle fought in the name of that Lord who was one day to fight against the devil, the shape was necessary of that very cross through which Jesus was to win the victory? Why, once more, did the same Moses, after prohibiting the likeness of everything, set up the golden serpent on the pole; and as it hung there, propose it as an object to be looked at for a cure?³³⁵⁵ Did he not here also intend to show the power of our Lord’s cross, whereby that old serpent the devil was vanquished,—whereby also to every man who was bitten by spiritual serpents, but who yet turned with an eye of faith to it, was proclaimed a cure from the bite of sin, and health for evermore?

3352 Census.

3353 *Gen. xlix. 6.* The last clause is, “*ceciderunt nervos tauro.*”

3354 Vanum.

3355 *Spectaculum salutare.*

Chapter XIX.—Prophecies of the Death of Christ.

Come now, when you read in the words of David, how that “the Lord reigneth from the tree,”³³⁵⁶ I want to know what you understand by it. Perhaps you think some wooden³³⁵⁷ king of the Jews is meant!—and not Christ, who overcame death by His suffering on the cross, and thence reigned! Now, although death reigned from Adam even to Christ, why may not Christ be said to have reigned from the tree, from His having shut up the kingdom of death by dying upon the tree of His cross? Likewise Isaiah also says: “For unto us a child is born.”³³⁵⁸ But what is there unusual in this, unless he speaks of the Son of God? “To us is given He whose government is upon His shoulder.”³³⁵⁹ Now, what king is there who bears the ensign of his dominion upon his shoulder, and not rather upon his head as a diadem, or in his hand as a sceptre, or else as a mark in some royal apparel? But the one new King of the new ages, Jesus Christ, carried on His shoulder both the power and the excellence of His new glory, even His cross; so that, according to our former prophecy, He might thenceforth reign from the tree as Lord. This tree it is which Jeremiah likewise gives you intimation of, when he prophesies to the Jews, who should say, “Come, let us destroy the tree with the fruit, (the bread) thereof,”³³⁶⁰ that is, His body. For so did God in your own gospel even reveal the sense, when He called His body *bread*; so that, for the time to come, you may understand that He has given to His body the figure of bread, whose body the prophet of old figuratively turned into bread, the Lord Himself designing to give by and by an interpretation of the mystery. If you require still further prediction of the Lord’s cross, the twenty-first Psalm³³⁶¹ is sufficiently able to afford it to you, containing as it does the entire passion of Christ, who was even then prophetically declaring³³⁶² His glory. “They pierced,” says He, “my hands and my feet,”³³⁶³ which is the special cruelty of the cross. And again, when He implores His Father’s help, He says, “Save me from the lion’s mouth,” that is, the jaws of death, “and my humiliation from the horns of the unicorns;” in other words, from the extremities of the cross, as we have shown above. Now, David himself did not suffer this cross, nor did any other king of the Jews; so that you cannot suppose that this is the prophecy of any other’s passion than His who alone was so notably crucified by the

3356 Ps. xcvi. 10, with *a ligno* added.

3357 Lignarium aliquem regem.

3358 Isa. ix. 6.

3359 Isa. ix. 6.

3360 Jer. xi. 19.

3361 The twenty-second Psalm. A.V.

3362 Canentis.

3363 Ps. xxii. 16.

nation. Now should the heretics, in their obstinacy,³³⁶⁴ reject and despise all these interpretations, I will grant to them that the Creator has given us no signs of the cross of His Christ; but they will not prove from this concession that He who was crucified was another (Christ), unless they could somehow show that this death was predicted as His by their own god, so that from the diversity of predictions there might be maintained to be a diversity of sufferers,³³⁶⁵ and thereby also a diversity of persons. But since there is no prophecy of even Marcion's Christ, much less of his cross, it is enough for my Christ that there is a prophecy merely of death. For, from the fact that the *kind* of death is not declared, it was possible for the death of the cross to have been still intended, which would then have to be assigned to another (Christ), if the prophecy had had reference to another. Besides,³³⁶⁶ if he should be unwilling to allow that the death of my Christ was predicted, his confusion must be the greater³³⁶⁷ if he announces that his own Christ indeed died, whom he denies to have had a nativity, whilst denying that my Christ is mortal, though he allows Him to be capable of birth. However, I will show him the death, and burial, and resurrection of my Christ all³³⁶⁸ indicated in a single sentence of Isaiah, who says, "His sepulture was removed from the midst of them." Now there could have been no sepulture without death, and no removal of sepulture except by resurrection. Then, finally, he added: "Therefore He shall have many for his inheritance, and He shall divide the spoil of the many, because He poured out His soul unto death."³³⁶⁹ For there is here set forth the cause of this favour to Him, even that it was to recompense Him for His suffering of death. It was equally shown that He was to obtain this recompense for His death, was certainly to obtain it after His death by means of the resurrection.³³⁷⁰



3364 Hæretica duritia.

3365 Passionum, literally *sufferings*, which would hardly give the sense.

3366 Nisi.

3367 Quo magis erubescat.

3368 Et—et—et.

3369 [Isa. liii. 12.](#)

3370 Both His own and His people's.

Chapter XX.³³⁷¹—The Subsequent Influence of Christ's Death in the World Predicted.
The Sure Mercies of David. What These are.

It is sufficient for my purpose to have traced thus far the course of Christ's dispensation in these particulars. This has proved Him to be such a one as prophecy announced He should be, so that He ought not to be regarded in any other character than that which prediction assigned to Him; and the result of this agreement between the facts of His course and the Scriptures of the Creator should be the restoration of belief in them from that prejudice which has, by contributing to diversity of opinion, either thrown doubt upon, or led to a denial of, a considerable part of them. And now we go further and build up the superstructure of those kindred events³³⁷² out of the Scriptures of the Creator which were predicted and destined to happen after Christ. For the dispensation would not be found complete, if He had not come after whom it had to run on its course.³³⁷³ Look at all nations from the vortex of human error emerging out of it up to the Divine Creator, the Divine Christ, and deny Him to be the object of prophecy, if you dare. At once there will occur to you the Father's promise in the Psalms: "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession."³³⁷⁴ You will not be able to put in a claim for some son of David being here meant, rather than Christ; or for the ends of the earth being promised to David, whose kingdom was confined to the Jewish nation simply, rather than to Christ, who now embraces the whole world in the faith of His gospel. So again He says by Isaiah: "I have given Thee for a dispensation of the people, for a light of the Gentiles, to open the eyes of the blind," that is, those that be in error, "to bring out the prisoners from the prison," that is, to free them from sin, "and from the prison-house," that is, of death, "those that sit in darkness"—even that of ignorance.³³⁷⁵ If these things are accomplished through Christ, they would not have been designed in prophecy for any other than Him through whom they have their accomplishment. In another passage He also says: "Behold, I have set Him as a testimony to the nations, a prince and commander to the nations; nations which know Thee not shall invoke Thee, and peoples shall run together unto Thee."³³⁷⁶ You will not interpret these words of David, because He previously said, "I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."³³⁷⁷ Indeed, you will be obliged from these words all

3371 *Comp. adv. Judæos*, 11 and 12.

3372 *Ea paria*.

3373 *Evenire*.

3374 *Ps. ii. 7*.

3375 *Isa. xlii. 6, 7*.

3376 *Isa. lv. 4, 5*.

3377 *Isa. lv. 3*.

the more to understand that Christ is reckoned to spring from David by carnal descent, by reason of His birth³³⁷⁸ of the Virgin Mary. Touching this promise of Him, there is the oath to David in the psalm, “Of the fruit of thy body³³⁷⁹ will I set upon thy throne.”³³⁸⁰ What body is meant? David’s own? Certainly not. For David was not to give birth to a son.³³⁸¹ Nor his wife’s either. For instead of saying, “Of the fruit of thy body,” he would then have rather said, “Of the fruit of thy wife’s body.” But by mentioning *his*³³⁸² body, it follows that He pointed to some one of his race of whose body the flesh of Christ was to be the fruit, which bloomed forth from³³⁸³ Mary’s womb. He named the fruit of the body (womb) alone, because it was peculiarly fruit of the womb, of the womb only in fact, and not of the husband also; and he refers the womb (body) to David, as to the chief of the race and father of the family. Because it could not consist with a virgin’s condition to consort her with a husband,³³⁸⁴ He therefore attributed the body (womb) to the father. That new dispensation, then, which is found in Christ now, will prove to be what the Creator then promised under the appellation of “the sure mercies of David,” which were Christ’s, inasmuch as Christ sprang from David, or rather His very flesh itself was David’s “sure mercies,” consecrated by religion, and “sure” after its resurrection. Accordingly the prophet Nathan, in the first of Kings,³³⁸⁵ makes a promise to David for his seed, “which shall proceed,” says he, “out of thy bowels.”³³⁸⁶ Now, if you explain this simply of Solomon, you will send me into a fit of laughter. For David will evidently have brought forth Solomon! But is not Christ here designated the seed of David, as of that womb which was derived from David, that is, Mary’s? Now, because Christ rather than any other³³⁸⁷ was to build the temple of God, that is to say, a holy manhood, wherein God’s Spirit might dwell as in a better temple, Christ rather than David’s son Solomon was to be looked for as³³⁸⁸ the Son of God. Then, again, the throne for ever with the kingdom for ever is more suited to Christ than to Solomon, a mere temporal king. From Christ, too, God’s mercy did not depart, whereas on Solomon even



3378 Censum. [Kaye, p. 149.]

3379 Ventris, “womb.”

3380 Ps. cxxxii. 11.

3381 He treats “body” as here meaning *womb*.

3382 Ipsius.

3383 Floruit ex.

3384 Viro deputare.

3385 The four books of *the Kings* were sometimes regarded as *two*, “the first” of which contained 1 and 2 *Samuel*, “the second” 1 and 2 *Kings*. The reference in this place is to 2 *Samuel vii. 12*.

3386 He here again makes *bowels* synonymous with *womb*.

3387 Magis.

3388 Habendus in.

God's anger alighted, after his luxury and idolatry. For Satan³³⁸⁹ stirred up an Edomite as an enemy against him. Since, therefore, nothing of these things is compatible with Solomon, but only with Christ, the method of our interpretations will certainly be true; and the very issue of the facts shows that they were clearly predicted of Christ. And so in Him we shall have "the sure mercies of David." *Him*, not David, has God appointed for a testimony to the nations; *Him*, for a prince and commander to the nations, not David, who ruled over Israel alone. It is Christ whom all nations now invoke, which knew Him not; Christ to whom all races now betake themselves, whom they were ignorant of before. It is impossible that that should be said to be future, which you see (daily) coming to pass.

3389 In 1 Kings xi. 14, "the Lord" is said to have done this. Comp. 2 Sam. xxiv. 1 with 1 Chron. xxi. i.

Chapter XXI.—The Call of the Gentiles Under the Influence of the Gospel Foretold.

So you cannot get out of this notion of yours a basis for your difference between the two Christs, as if the Jewish Christ were ordained by the Creator for the restoration of the people alone³³⁹⁰ from its dispersion, whilst yours was appointed by the supremely good God for the liberation of the whole human race. Because, after all, the earliest Christians are found on the side of the Creator, not of Marcion,³³⁹¹ all nations being called to His kingdom, from the fact that God set up that kingdom from the tree (of the cross), when no Cerdon was yet born, much less a Marcion. However, when you are refuted on the call of the *nations*, you betake yourself to *proselytes*. You ask, who among the nations can turn to the Creator, when those whom the prophet names are proselytes of individually different and private condition?³³⁹² “Behold,” says Isaiah, “the proselytes shall come unto me through Thee,” showing that they were even proselytes who were to find their way to God through Christ. But nations (Gentiles) also, like ourselves, had likewise their mention (by the prophet) as trusting in Christ. “And in His name,” says he, “shall the Gentiles trust.” Besides, the proselytes whom you substitute for the nations in prophecy, are not in the habit of trusting in Christ’s name, but in the dispensation of Moses, from whom comes their instruction. But it was in the last days that the choice³³⁹³ of the nations had its commencement.³³⁹⁴ In these very words Isaiah says: “And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord,” that is, God’s eminence, “and the house of God,” that is, Christ, the Catholic temple of God, in which God is worshipped, “shall be established upon the mountains,” over all the eminences of virtues and powers; “and all nations shall come unto it; and many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us His way, and we will walk in it: for out of Sion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”³³⁹⁵ The gospel will be this “way,” of the new law and the new word in Christ, no longer in Moses. “And He shall judge among the nations,” even concerning their error. “And these shall rebuke a large nation,” that of the Jews themselves and their proselytes. “And they shall beat their swords

3390 i.e., the Jews.

3391 Or perhaps, “are found to belong to the Creator’s Christ, not to Marcion’s.”

3392 Marcion denied that there was any prophecy of national or *Gentile* conversion; it was only the conversion of individual proselytes that he held.

3393 Allectio.

3394 Exorta est.

3395 [Isa. ii. 2, 3.](#)

into ploughshares, and their spears³³⁹⁶ into pruning-hooks;” in other words, they shall change into pursuits of moderation and peace the dispositions of injurious minds, and hostile tongues, and all kinds of evil, and blasphemy. “Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,” shall not stir up discord. “Neither shall they learn war any more,”³³⁹⁷ that is, the provocation of hostilities; so that you here learn that Christ is promised not as powerful in war, but pursuing peace. Now you must deny either that these things were predicted, although they are plainly seen, or that they have been accomplished, although you read of them; else, if you cannot deny either one fact or the other, they must have been accomplished in Him of whom they were predicted. For look at the entire course of His call up to the present time from its beginning, how it is addressed to the nations (Gentiles) who are in these last days approaching to God the Creator, and not to proselytes, whose election³³⁹⁸ was rather an event of the earliest days. Verily the apostles have annulled³³⁹⁹ that belief of yours.



3396 Sibynas, Σιβύνη· ὄπλον δόρατι παραπλήσιον. Hesychius, “*Sibynam* appellant Illyrii telum venabuli simile.” Paulus, *ex Festo*, p. 336, Müll. (Oehler.)

3397 [Isa. ii. 4.](#)

3398 Allectio.

3399 Junius explains the author’s *induxerunt* by *deleverunt*; i.e., “they annulled your opinion about proselytes being the sole called, by their promulgation of the gospel.”

Chapter XXII.—The Success of the Apostles, and Their Sufferings in the Cause of the Gospel, Foretold.

You have the work of the apostles also predicted: “How beautiful are the feet of them which preach the gospel of peace, which bring good tidings of good,”³⁴⁰⁰ not of war nor evil tidings. In response to which is the psalm, “Their sound is gone through all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world;”³⁴⁰¹ that is, the words of them who carry round about the law that proceeded from Sion and the Lord’s word from Jerusalem, in order that that might come to pass which was written: “They who were far from my righteousness, have come near to my righteousness and truth.”³⁴⁰² When the apostles girded their loins for this business, they renounced the elders and rulers and priests of the Jews. Well, says he, but was it not above all things that they might preach the other god? Rather³⁴⁰³ (that they might preach) that very self-same God, whose scripture they were with all their might fulfilling! “Depart ye, depart ye,” exclaims Isaiah; “go ye out from thence, and touch not the unclean thing,” that is blasphemy against Christ; “Go ye out of the midst of her,” even of the synagogue. “Be ye separate who bear the vessels of the Lord.”³⁴⁰⁴ For already had the Lord, according to the preceding words (of the prophet), revealed His Holy One with His arm, that is to say, Christ by His mighty power, in the eyes of the nations, so that all the³⁴⁰⁵ nations and the utmost parts of the earth have seen the salvation, which was from God. By thus departing from Judaism itself, when they exchanged the obligations and burdens of the law for the liberty of the gospel, they were fulfilling the psalm, “Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast away their yoke from us;” and this indeed (they did) after that “the heathen raged, and the people imagined vain devices;” after that “the kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers took their counsel together against the Lord, and against His Christ.”³⁴⁰⁶ What did the apostles thereupon suffer? You answer: Every sort of iniquitous persecutions, from men that belonged indeed to that Creator who was the adversary of Him whom they were preaching. Then why does the Creator, if an adversary of Christ, not only predict that the apostles should incur this suffering, but even express His displeasure³⁴⁰⁷ thereat? For

3400 [Isa. lii. 7](#) and [Rom. x. 15](#).

3401 [Ps. xix. 5](#).

3402 Pamelius regards this as a quotation from [Isa. xlvi. 12, 13](#), only put *narratively*, in order to indicate briefly its realization.

3403 Atquin.

3404 [Isa. lii. 11](#).

3405 *Universæ*.

3406 *Comp. Ps. ii. 2, 3, with Acts iv. 25–30*.

3407 *Exprobrat*.

He ought neither to predict the course of the other god, whom, as you contend, He knew not, nor to have expressed displeasure at that which He had taken care to bring about. “See how the righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart; and how merciful men are taken away, and no man considereth. For the righteous man has been removed from the evil person.”³⁴⁰⁸ Who is this but Christ? “Come, say they, let us take away the righteous, because He is not for our turn, (and He is clean contrary to our doings).”³⁴⁰⁹ Premising, therefore, and likewise subjoining the fact that Christ suffered, He foretold that His just ones should suffer equally with Him—both the apostles and all the faithful in succession; and He signed them with that very seal of which Ezekiel spake: “The Lord said unto me, Go through the gate, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set the mark *Tau* upon the foreheads of the men.”³⁴¹⁰ Now the Greek letter *Tau* and our own letter T is the very form of the cross, which He predicted would be the sign on our foreheads in the true Catholic Jerusalem,³⁴¹¹ in which, according to the twenty-first Psalm, the brethren of Christ or children of God would ascribe glory to God the Father, in the person of Christ Himself addressing His Father; “I will declare Thy name unto my brethren; in the midst of the congregation will I sing praise unto Thee.” For that which had to come to pass in our day in His name, and by His Spirit, He rightly foretold would be of Him. And a little afterwards He says: “My praise shall be of Thee in the great congregation.”³⁴¹² In the sixty-seventh Psalm He says again: “In the congregations bless ye the Lord God.”³⁴¹³ So that with this agrees also the prophecy of Malachi: “I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord; neither will I accept your offerings: for from the rising of the sun, even unto the going down of the same, my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place sacrifice shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering”³⁴¹⁴—such as the ascription of glory, and blessing, and praise, and hymns. Now, inasmuch as all these things are also found amongst you, and the sign upon the forehead,³⁴¹⁵



3408 [Isa. lvii. 1.](#)

3409 [Wisd. of Sol. ii. 12.](#)

3410 [Ezek. ix. 4.](#) The ms. which T. used seems to have agreed with the versions of Theodotion and Aquila mentioned thus by Origen (*Selecta in Ezek.*): ὁ δὲ Ἀκύλας καὶ Θεοδοτίων φασι. Σημείωσις τοῦ Θαῦ ἐπὶ τὰ μέτωπα, κ.τ.λ. Origen, in his own remarks, refers to *the sign of the cross*, as indicated by this letter. Ed. Bened. (by Migne), iii. 802.

3411 [Ambiguous, according to Kaye, p. 304, may mean a transition from Paganism to true Christianity.]

3412 [Ps. xxii. 22, 25.](#)

3413 [Ps. lxviii. 26.](#)

3414 [Mal. i. 10, 11.](#)

3415 [Kaye remarks that traditions of *practice*, unlike the traditions of doctrine, may be varied according to times and circumstances. See p. 286.]

and the sacraments of the church, and the offerings of the pure sacrifice, you ought now to burst forth, and declare that the Spirit of the Creator prophesied of your Christ.

Chapter XXIII.—The Dispersion of the Jews, and Their Desolate Condition for Rejecting Christ, Foretold.

Now, since you join the Jews in denying that their Christ has come, recollect also what is that end which they were predicted as about to bring on themselves after the time of Christ, for the impiety wherewith they both rejected and slew Him. For it began to come to pass from that day, when, according to Isaiah, “a man threw away his idols of gold and of silver, which they made into useless and hurtful objects of worship;”³⁴¹⁶ in other words, from the time when he threw away his idols after the truth had been made clear by Christ. Consider whether what follows in the prophet has not received its fulfilment: “The Lord of hosts hath taken away from Judah and from Jerusalem, amongst other things, both the prophet and the wise artificer;”³⁴¹⁷ that is, His Holy Spirit, who builds the church, which is indeed the temple, and household and city of God. For thenceforth God’s grace failed amongst them; and “the clouds were commanded to rain no rain upon the vineyard” of Sorech; to withhold, that is, the graces of heaven, that they shed no blessing upon “the house of Israel,” which had but produced “the thorns” wherewith it had crowned the Lord, and “instead of righteousness, the cry” wherewith it had hurried Him away to the cross.³⁴¹⁸ And so in this manner the law and the prophets were until John, but the dews of divine grace were withdrawn from the nation. After his time their madness still continued, and the name of the Lord was blasphemed by them, as saith the Scripture: “Because of you my name is continually blasphemed amongst the nations”³⁴¹⁹ (for from them did the blasphemy originate); neither in the interval from Tiberius to Vespasian did they learn repentance.³⁴²⁰ Therefore “has their land become desolate, their cities are burnt with fire, their country strangers are devouring before their own eyes; the daughter of Sion has been deserted like a cottage in a vineyard, or a lodge in a garden of cucumbers,”³⁴²¹ ever since the time when “Israel acknowledged not the Lord, and the people understood Him not, but forsook Him, and provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger.”³⁴²² So likewise that conditional threat of the sword, “If ye refuse and hear me not, the sword shall devour you,”³⁴²³ has proved that it was Christ, for rebellion against whom they have perished. In the fifty-eighth Psalm He

3416 Isa. ii. 20.

3417 Architectum, Isa. iii. 1–3, abridged.

3418 Isa. v. 6, 7.

3419 Isa. lii. 5.

3420 Compare *Adv. Judæos*, 13, p. 171, for a like statement.

3421 Isa. i. 7, 8.

3422 Isa. i. 3, 4.

3423 Isa. i. 20.

demands of the Father their dispersion: “Scatter them in Thy power.”³⁴²⁴ By Isaiah He also says, as He finishes a prophecy of their consumption by fire:³⁴²⁵ “Because of me has this happened to you; ye shall lie down in sorrow.”³⁴²⁶ But all this would be unmeaning enough, if they suffered this retribution not on account of Him, who had in prophecy assigned their suffering to His own cause, but for the sake of the Christ of the other god. Well, then, although you affirm that it is the Christ of the other god who was driven to the cross by the powers and authorities of the Creator, as it were by hostile beings, still I have to say, See how manifestly He was defended³⁴²⁷ by the Creator: there were given to Him both “the wicked for His burial,” even those who had strenuously maintained that His corpse had been stolen, “and the rich for His death,”³⁴²⁸ even those who had redeemed Him from the treachery of Judas, as well as from the lying report of the soldiers that His body had been taken away. Therefore these things either did not happen to the Jews on His account, in which case you will be refuted by the sense of the Scriptures tallying with the issue of the facts and the order of the times, or else they did happen on His account, and then the Creator could not have inflicted the vengeance except for His own Christ; nay, He must have rather had a reward for Judas, if it had been his master’s enemy whom they put to death. At all events,³⁴²⁹ if the Creator’s Christ has not come yet, on whose account the prophecy dooms them to such sufferings, they will have to endure the sufferings when He shall have come. Then where will there be a daughter of Sion to be reduced to desolation, for there is none now to be found? Where will there be cities to be burnt with fire, for they are now in heaps?³⁴³⁰ Where a nation to be dispersed, which is already in banishment? Restore to Judæa its former state, that the Creator’s Christ may find it, and then you may contend that another Christ has come. But then, again,³⁴³¹ how is it that He can have permitted to range through³⁴³² His own heaven one whom He was some day to put to death on His own earth, after the more noble and glorious region of His kingdom had been violated, and His own very palace and sublimest height had been trodden by him? Or was it only in appearance rather that he did this?³⁴³³ God is no doubt³⁴³⁴ a jealous God! Yet he gained the victory.

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3424 Ps. lix. 11.

3425 Exustionem.

3426 Isa. l. 11.

3427 Defensus, perhaps “claimed.”

3428 See Isa. liii. 9.

3429 Certe.

3430 Compare a passage in the *Apology*, chap. xxi. p. 34, *supra*.

3431 Jam vero.

3432 Admiserit per.

3433 Hoc affectavit.

3434 Plane.

You should blush with shame, who put your faith in a vanquished god! What have you to hope for from him, who was not strong enough to protect himself? For it was either through his infirmity that he was crushed by the powers and human agents of the Creator, or else through maliciousness, in order that he might fasten so great a stigma on them by his endurance of their wickedness.

Chapter XXIV.—Christ's Millennial and Heavenly Glory in Company with His Saints.

Yes, certainly,³⁴³⁵ you say, I do hope from Him that which amounts in itself to a proof of the diversity (of Christs), God's kingdom in an everlasting and heavenly possession. Besides, your Christ promises to the Jews their primitive condition, with the recovery of their country; and after this life's course is over, repose in Hades³⁴³⁶ in Abraham's bosom. Oh, most excellent God, when He restores in amnesty³⁴³⁷ what He took away in wrath! Oh, what a God is yours, who both wounds and heals, creates evil and makes peace! Oh, what a God, that is merciful even down to Hades! I shall have something to say about Abraham's bosom in the proper place.³⁴³⁸ As for the restoration of Judæa, however, which even the Jews themselves, induced by the names of places and countries, hope for just as it is described,³⁴³⁹ it would be tedious to state at length³⁴⁴⁰ how the figurative³⁴⁴¹ interpretation is spiritually applicable to Christ and His church, and to the character and fruits thereof; besides, the subject has been regularly treated³⁴⁴² in another work, which we entitle *De Spe Fidelium*.³⁴⁴³ At present, too, it would be superfluous³⁴⁴⁴ for this reason, that our inquiry relates to what is promised in heaven, not on earth. But we do confess that a kingdom is promised to us upon the earth, although before heaven, only in another state of existence; inasmuch as it will be after the resurrection for a thousand years in the divinely-built city of Jerusalem,³⁴⁴⁵ "let down from heaven,"³⁴⁴⁶ which the apostle also calls "our mother from above;"³⁴⁴⁷ and, while declaring that our πολίτευμα, or citizenship, is in heaven,³⁴⁴⁸ he

3435 Immo.

3436 Apud inferos.

3437 Placatus.

3438 See below, in book iv. chap. iv.

3439 Ita ut describitur, i.e., in the literal sense.

3440 Persequi.

3441 Allegorica.

3442 Digestum.

3443 On the Hope of the Faithful. This work, which is not extant (although its title appears in one of the oldest mss. of Tertullian, the *Codex Agobardinus*), is mentioned by St. Jerome in his *Commentary on Ezekiel*, chap. xxxvi.; in the preface to his *Comment. on Isaiah*, chap. xviii.; and in his notice of Papias of Hierapolis (Oehler).

3444 Otiosum.

3445 [See Kaye's important Comment. p. 345.]

3446 Rev. xxi. 2.

3447 Gal. iv. 26.

3448 Phil. iii. 20, "our conversation," A.V.

predicates of it³⁴⁴⁹ that it is really a city in heaven. This both Ezekiel had knowledge of³⁴⁵⁰ and the Apostle John beheld.³⁴⁵¹ And the word of the new prophecy which is a part of our belief,³⁴⁵² attests how it foretold that there would be for a sign a picture of this very city exhibited to view previous to its manifestation. This prophecy, indeed, has been very lately fulfilled in an expedition to the East.³⁴⁵³ For it is evident from the testimony of even heathen witnesses, that in Judæa there was suspended in the sky a city early every morning for forty days. As the day advanced, the entire figure of its walls would wane gradually,³⁴⁵⁴ and sometimes it would vanish instantly.³⁴⁵⁵ We say that this city has been provided by God for receiving the saints on their resurrection, and refreshing them with the abundance of all really spiritual blessings, as a recompense for those which in the world we have either despised or lost; since it is both just and God-worthy that His servants should have their joy in the place where they have also suffered affliction for His name's sake. Of the heavenly kingdom this is the process.³⁴⁵⁶ After its thousand years are over, within which period is completed the resurrection of the saints, who rise sooner or later according to their deserts there will ensue the destruction of the world and the conflagration of all things at the judgment: we shall then be changed in a moment into the substance of angels, even by the investiture of an incorruptible nature, and so be removed to that kingdom in heaven of which we have now been treating, just as if it had not been predicted by the Creator, and as if it were proving Christ to belong to the other god and as if he were the first and sole revealer of it. But now learn that it has been, in fact, predicted by the Creator, and that even without prediction it has a claim upon our faith in respect of³⁴⁵⁷ the Creator. What appears to be probable to you, when Abraham's seed, after the primal promise of being like the sand of the sea for multitude, is destined likewise to an equality with the stars of heaven—are not these the indications both of an earthly and a heavenly dispensation?³⁴⁵⁸ When Isaac, in blessing his son Jacob, says, "God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth,"³⁴⁵⁹ are there not in his words examples of both kinds of blessing? Indeed, the very



3449 Deputat.

3450 Ezek. xlviii. 30–35.

3451 Rev. xxi. 10–23.

3452 That is, the *Montanist*. [Regarded as conclusive; but not conclusive evidence of an accomplished lapse from Catholic Communion.]

3453 He means that of Severus against the Parthians. Tertullian is the only author who mentions this prodigy.

3454 Evanescente.

3455 Et alias de proximo nullam: or "de proximo" may mean, "on a near approach."

3456 Ratio.

3457 Apud: or, "in the dispensation of the Creator."

3458 Dispositionis.

3459 Gen. xxvii. 28.

form of the blessing is in this instance worthy of notice. For in relation to Jacob, who is the type of the later and more excellent people, that is to say ourselves,³⁴⁶⁰ first comes the promise of the heavenly dew, and afterwards that about the fatness of the earth. So are we first invited to heavenly blessings when we are separated from the world, and afterwards we thus find ourselves in the way of obtaining also earthly blessings. And your own gospel likewise has it in this wise: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and these things shall be added unto you."³⁴⁶¹ But to Esau the blessing promised is an earthly one, which he supplements with a heavenly, after the fatness of the earth, saying, "Thy dwelling shall be also of the dew of heaven."³⁴⁶² For the dispensation of the Jews (who were in Esau, the prior of the sons in birth, but the later in affection³⁴⁶³) at first was imbued with earthly blessings through the law, and afterwards brought round to heavenly ones through the gospel by faith. When Jacob sees in his dream the steps of a ladder set upon the earth, and reaching to heaven, with angels ascending and descending thereon, and the Lord standing above, we shall without hesitation venture to suppose,³⁴⁶⁴ that by this ladder the Lord has in judgment appointed that the way to heaven is shown to men, whereby some may attain to it, and others fall therefrom. For why, as soon as he awoke out of his sleep, and shook through a dread of the spot, does he fall to an interpretation of his dream? He exclaims, "How terrible is this place!" And then adds, "This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven!"³⁴⁶⁵ For he had seen Christ the Lord, the temple of God, and also the gate by whom heaven is entered. Now surely he would not have mentioned the gate of heaven, if heaven is not entered in the dispensation of the³⁴⁶⁶ Creator. But there is now a gate provided by Christ, which admits and conducts *to glory*. Of this Amos says: "He buildeth His ascensions into heaven;"³⁴⁶⁷ certainly not for Himself alone, but for His people also, who will be with Him. "And Thou shalt bind them about Thee," says he, "like the adornment of a bride."³⁴⁶⁸ Accordingly the Spirit, admiring such as soar up to the celestial realms by these ascensions, says, "They

3460 Nostri, i.e., Christians. [Not *Montanist*, but Catholic.]

3461 [Luke xii. 31.](#)

3462 [Gen. xxvii. 39.](#)

3463 *Judæorum enim dispositio in Esau priorum natu et posteriorum affectu filiorum.* This is the original of a difficult passage, in which Tertullian, who has taken Jacob as a type of the later, the Christian church, seems to make Esau the symbol of the former, the Jewish church, which, although prior in time, was later in allegiance to the full truth of God.

3464 *Temere, si forte, interpretabimur.*

3465 [Gen. xxviii. 12–17.](#)

3466 *Apud.*

3467 [Amos ix. 6.](#)

3468 [Isa. xlix. 18.](#)

fly, as if they were kites; they fly as clouds, and as young doves, unto me”³⁴⁶⁹—that is, simply like a dove.³⁴⁷⁰ For we shall, according to the apostle, be caught up into the clouds to meet the Lord (even the Son of man, who shall come in the clouds, according to Daniel³⁴⁷¹) and so shall we ever be with the Lord,³⁴⁷² so long as He remains both on the earth and in heaven, who, against such as are thankless for both one promise and the other, calls the elements themselves to witness: “Hear, O heaven, and give ear, O earth.”³⁴⁷³ Now, for my own part indeed, even though Scripture held out no hand of heavenly hope to me (as, in fact, it so often does), I should still possess a sufficient presumption³⁴⁷⁴ of even this promise, in my present enjoyment of the earthly gift; and I should look out for something also of the heavenly, from Him who is the God of heaven as well as of earth. I should thus believe that the Christ who promises the higher blessings is (the Son) of Him who had also promised the lower ones; who had, moreover, afforded proofs of greater gifts by smaller ones; who had reserved for His Christ alone this revelation³⁴⁷⁵ of a (perhaps³⁴⁷⁶) unheard of kingdom, so that, while the earthly glory was announced by His servants, the heavenly might have God Himself for its messenger. *You*, however, argue for another Christ, from the very circumstance that He proclaims a new kingdom. You ought first to bring forward some example of His beneficence,³⁴⁷⁷ that I may have no good reason for doubting the credibility of the great promise, which you say ought to be hoped for; nay, it is before all things necessary that you should prove that a heaven belongs to Him, whom you declare to be a promiser of heavenly things. As it is, you invite us to dinner, but do not point out your house; you assert a kingdom, but show us no royal state.³⁴⁷⁸ Can it be that your Christ promises a kingdom of heaven, without having a heaven; as He displayed Himself man, without having flesh? O what a phantom from first to last!³⁴⁷⁹ O hollow pretence of a mighty promise!



3469 [Isa. lx. 8.](#)

3470 In allusion to the dove as the symbol of the Spirit, see [Matt. iii. 16.](#)

3471 [Dan. vii. 13.](#)

3472 [1 Thess. iv. 17.](#)

3473 [Isa. i. 2.](#)

3474 Præjudicium.

3475 Præconium.

3476 Si forte.

3477 Indulgentiæ.

3478 Regiam: perhaps “capital” or “palace.”

3479 Omne.

Book IV.³⁴⁸⁰



In Which Tertullian Pursues His Argument. Jesus is the Christ of the Creator. He Derives His Proofs from St. Luke's Gospel; That Being the Only Historical Portion of the New Testament Partially Accepted by Marcion. This Book May Also Be Regarded as a Commentary on St. Luke. It Gives Remarkable Proof of Tertullian's Grasp of Scripture, and Proves that "The Old Testament is Not Contrary to the New." It Also Abounds in Striking Expositions of Scriptural Passages, Embracing Profound Views of Revelation, in Connection with the Nature of Man.

Chapter I.—Examination of the Antitheses of Marcion, Bringing Them to the Test of Marcion's Own Gospel. Certain True Antitheses in the Dispensations of the Old and the New Testaments. These Variations Quite Compatible with One and the Same God, Who Ordered Them.

Every opinion and the whole scheme³⁴⁸¹ of the impious and sacrilegious Marcion we now bring to the test³⁴⁸² of that very Gospel which, by his process of interpolation, he has made his own. To encourage a belief of *this Gospel* he has actually³⁴⁸³ devised for it a sort of dower,³⁴⁸⁴ in a work composed of contrary statements set in opposition, thence entitled *Antitheses*, and compiled with a view to such a severance of the law from the gospel as should divide the Deity into two, nay, diverse, gods—one for each Instrument, or Testament³⁴⁸⁵ as it is more usual to call it; that by such means he might also patronize³⁴⁸⁶ belief in "the Gospel according to the Antitheses." These, however, I would have attacked in special

3480 [The remarks of Bishop Kaye on our author's *Marcion* are simply invaluable, and the student cannot dispense with what is said more particularly of this Book. See Kaye, pp. 450–480.]

3481 Paraturam.

3482 Provocamus ad. [Kaye, p. 469, refers to Schleiermacher's *Critical Essay* on St. Luke and to a learned note of Mr. Andrews Norton of Harvard (vol. iii. Appendix C.) for valuable remarks on Marcion's Gospel.]

3483 Et, emphatic.

3484 Dotem quandam.

3485 [See cap. 2, *infra*.]

3486 Patrocinaetur.

combat, hand to hand; that is to say, I would have encountered singly the several devices of the Pontic heretic, if it were not much more convenient to refute them in and with that very gospel to which they contribute their support. Although it is so easy to meet them at once with a peremptory demurrer,³⁴⁸⁷ yet, in order that I may both make them admissible in argument, and account them valid expressions of opinion, and even contend that they make for our side, that so there may be all the redder shame for the blindness of their author, we have now drawn out some *antitheses* of our own in opposition to Marcion. And indeed³⁴⁸⁸ I do allow that one order did run its course in the old dispensation under the Creator,³⁴⁸⁹ and that another is on its way in the new under Christ. I do not deny that there is a difference in the language of their documents, in their precepts of virtue, and in their teachings of the law; but yet all this diversity is consistent with one and the same God, even Him by whom it was arranged and also foretold. Long ago³⁴⁹⁰ did Isaiah declare that “out of Sion should go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem”³⁴⁹¹—some other law, that is, and another word. In short, says he, “He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people;”³⁴⁹² meaning not those of the Jewish people only, but of the nations which are judged by the new law of the gospel and the new word of the apostles, and are amongst themselves rebuked of their old error as soon as they have believed. And as the result of this, “they beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears (which are a kind of hunting instruments) into pruning-hooks;”³⁴⁹³ that is to say, minds, which once were fierce and cruel, are changed by them into good dispositions productive of good fruit. And again: “Hearken unto me, hearken unto me, my people, and ye kings, give ear unto me; for a law shall proceed from me, and my judgment for a light to the nations;”³⁴⁹⁴ wherefore He had determined and decreed that the nations also were to be enlightened by the law and the word of the gospel. This will be that law which (according to David also) is unblameable, because “perfect, converting the soul”³⁴⁹⁵ from idols unto God. This likewise will be the word concerning which the same Isaiah says, “For the Lord will make a decisive word in

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3487 Præscriptive occurere. This law term (the Greek παραγραφή) seems to refer to the Church’s “rule of faith” (præscriptio), which he might at once put in against Marcion’s heresy; only he prefers to refute him on his own ground.

3488 Atque adeo.

3489 Apud Creatorem.

3490 Olim.

3491 Isa. ii. 3.

3492 Isa. ii. 4.

3493 Isa. ii. 4.

3494 Isa. ii. 4, according to the Sept.

3495 Ps. xix. 7.

the land.”³⁴⁹⁶ Because the New Testament is compendiously short,³⁴⁹⁷ and freed from the minute and perplexing³⁴⁹⁸ burdens of the law. But why enlarge, when the Creator by the same prophet foretells the renovation more manifestly and clearly than the light itself? “Remember not the former things, neither consider the things of old” (the old things have passed away, and new things are arising). “Behold, I will do new things, which shall now spring forth.”³⁴⁹⁹ So by Jeremiah: “Break up for yourselves new pastures,³⁵⁰⁰ and sow not among thorns, and circumcise yourselves in the foreskin of your heart.”³⁵⁰¹ And in another passage: “Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Jacob, and with the house of Judah; not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I arrested their dispensation, in order to bring them out of the land of Egypt.”³⁵⁰² He thus shows that the ancient covenant is temporary only, when He indicates its change; also when He promises that it shall be followed by an eternal one. For by Isaiah He says: “Hear me, and ye shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you,” adding “the sure mercies of David,”³⁵⁰³ in order that He might show that that covenant was to run its course in Christ. That He was of the family of David, according to the genealogy of Mary,³⁵⁰⁴ He declared in a figurative way even by the rod which was to proceed out of the stem of Jesse.³⁵⁰⁵ Forasmuch then as he said, that from the Creator there would come other laws, and other words, and new dispensations of covenants, indicating also that the very sacrifices were to receive higher offices, and *that* amongst all nations, by Malachi when he says: “I have no pleasure in you, saith the Lord, neither will I accept your sacrifices at your hands. For from the rising of the sun, even unto the going down of the same, my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place a sacrifice is offered unto my name, even a pure offering”³⁵⁰⁶—meaning simple prayer from a pure conscience,—it is of necessity

3496 T.’s version of *Isa. x. 23*. “Decisus Sermo” = “determined” of A.V.

3497 Compendiatum.

3498 Laciniosis.

3499 *Isa. xliiii. 18, 19*.

3500 Novate novamen novum. Agricultural words.

3501 Altered version of *Jer. iv. 3, 4*.

3502 *Jer. xxxi. 31, 32*, with slight change.

3503 *Isa. lv. 3*.

3504 *Secundum Mariæ censem*. See Kitto’s *Cyclopædia of Biblical Literature* (third edition), in the article “Genealogy of Jesus Christ,” where the translator of this work has largely given reasons for believing that St. Luke in his genealogy, (chap. iii.) has traced the descent of the Virgin Mary. To the authorities there given may be added this passage of Tertullian, and a fuller one, *Adversus Judæos*, ix., towards the end. [p. 164, *supra*.]

3505 *Isa. xi. 1*.

3506 *Mal. i. 10, 11*.

that every change which comes as the result of innovation, introduces a diversity in those things of which *the change* is made, from which diversity arises also a contrariety. For as there is nothing, after it has undergone a change, which does not become different, so there is nothing different which is not contrary.³⁵⁰⁷ Of that very thing, therefore, there will be predicated a contrariety in consequence of its diversity, to which there accrued a change of condition after an innovation. He who brought about the change, the same instituted the diversity also; He who foretold the innovation, the same announced beforehand the contrariety likewise. Why, in your interpretation, do you impute a difference in the state of things to a difference of powers? Why do you wrest to the Creator's prejudice those examples from which you draw your antitheses, when you may recognise them all in His sensations and affections? "I will wound," He says, "and I will heal;" "I will kill," He says again, "and I will make alive"³⁵⁰⁸—even the same "who createth evil and maketh peace;"³⁵⁰⁹ from which you are used even to censure Him with the imputation of fickleness and inconstancy, as if He forbade what He commanded, and commanded what He forbade. Why, then, have you not reckoned up the *Antitheses* also which occur in the natural works of the Creator, who is for ever contrary to Himself? You have not been able, unless I am misinformed, to recognise the fact,³⁵¹⁰ that the world, at all events,³⁵¹¹ even amongst your people of Pontus, is made up of a diversity of elements which are hostile to one another.³⁵¹² It was therefore your bounden duty first to have determined that the god of the light was one being, and the god of darkness was another, in such wise that you might have been able to have distinctly asserted one of them to be the god of the law and the other the god of the gospel. It is, however, the settled conviction already³⁵¹³ of my mind from manifest proofs, that, as His works and plans³⁵¹⁴ exist in the way of *Antitheses*, so also by the same rule exist the mysteries of His religion.³⁵¹⁵



3507 To its former self.

3508 [Deut. xxxii. 39.](#)

3509 [Isa. xlv. 7.](#)

3510 *Recogitare.*

3511 *Saltim.*

3512 *Æmularum invicem.*

3513 *Præjudicatum est.*

3514 *In the external world.*

3515 *Sacramenta.*

Chapter II.—St. Luke's Gospel, Selected by Marcion as His Authority, and Mutilated by Him. The Other Gospels Equally Authoritative. Marcion's Terms of Discussion, However, Accepted, and Grappled with on the Footing of St. Luke's Gospel Alone.

You have now our answer to the *Antitheses* compendiously indicated by us.³⁵¹⁶ I pass on to give a proof of the Gospel³⁵¹⁷—not, to be sure, of Jewry, but of Pontus—having become meanwhile³⁵¹⁸ adulterated; and this shall indicate³⁵¹⁹ the order by which we proceed. We lay it down as our first position, that the evangelical Testament³⁵²⁰ has apostles for its authors,³⁵²¹ to whom was assigned by the Lord Himself this office of publishing the gospel. Since, however, there are apostolic³⁵²² men also,³⁵²³ they are yet not alone, but appear with apostles and after apostles; because the preaching of disciples might be open to the suspicion of an affectation of glory, if there did not accompany it³⁵²⁴ the authority of the masters, which means that of Christ,³⁵²⁵ for it was that which made the apostles their masters. Of the apostles, therefore, John and Matthew first instil³⁵²⁶ faith into us; whilst of apostolic men, Luke and Mark renew it afterwards.³⁵²⁷ These all start with the same principles of the faith,³⁵²⁸ so far as relates to the one only God the Creator and His Christ, how that He was born of the Virgin, and came to fulfil³⁵²⁹ the law and the prophets. Never mind³⁵³⁰ if there

3516 Expeditam a nobis.

3517 [The term εὐαγγέλιον was often employed for a written book, says Kaye (p. 298), who refers to Book i. cap. 1. *supra*, etc.]

3518 Interim, perhaps “occasionally.”

3519 Præstructuram.

3520 Instrumentum. [See cap. 1, *supra*. And, above, note 9. Also in cap. iii. and the Apology, (cap. xlvii.) he calls the Testaments, *Digests*, or *Sancta Digesta*.]

3521 By this canon of his, that the true Gospels must have for their authors either apostles or companions and disciples of apostles, he shuts out the false Gospels of the heretics, such as the Ebionites, Encratites, Nazarenes, and Marcionites (Le Prieur).

3522 Apostolicos, companions of the apostles associated in the authorship.

3523 He means, of course, St. Mark and St. Luke.

3524 Adsistat illi.

3525 Immo Christi.

3526 Insinuant.

3527 Instaurant.

3528 Isdem regulis.

3529 Supplementum.

3530 Viderit.

does occur some variation in the order of their narratives, provided that there be agreement in the essential matter³⁵³¹ of the faith, in which there is disagreement with Marcion. Marcion, on the other hand, you must know,³⁵³² ascribes no author to his Gospel, as if it could not be allowed him to affix a title to that from which it was no crime (in his eyes) to subvert³⁵³³ the very body. And here I might now make a stand, and contend that a work ought not to be recognised, which holds not its head erect, which exhibits no consistency, which gives no promise of credibility from the fulness of its title and the just profession of its author. But we prefer to join issue³⁵³⁴ on every point; nor shall we leave unnoticed³⁵³⁵ what may fairly be understood to be on our side.³⁵³⁶ Now, of the authors whom we possess, Marcion seems to have singled out Luke³⁵³⁷ for his mutilating process.³⁵³⁸ Luke, however, was not an apostle, but only an apostolic man; not a master, but a disciple, and so inferior to a master—at least as far subsequent to³⁵³⁹ him as the apostle whom he followed (and that, no doubt, was Paul³⁵⁴⁰) was subsequent to the others; so that, had Marcion even published his Gospel in the name of St. Paul himself, the single authority of the document,³⁵⁴¹ destitute of all support from preceding authorities, would not be a sufficient basis for our faith. There would be still wanted that Gospel which St. Paul found in existence, to which he yielded his belief, and with which he so earnestly wished his own to agree, that he actually on that account went up to Jerusalem to know and consult the apostles, “lest he should run, or had been running in vain;”³⁵⁴² in other words, that the faith which he had learned, and the gospel which he was preaching, might be in accordance with theirs. Then, at last, having conferred with the (primitive) authors, and having agreed with them touching the rule of faith, they joined their hands in fellowship, and divided their labours thenceforth in the office of preaching the gospel, so that they were to go to the Jews, and St. Paul to the Jews and the



3531 De capite.

3532 Scilicet.

3533 Evertere.

3534 Congredi.

3535 Dissimulamus.

3536 Ex nostro.

3537 Compare Irenæus, *Adversus Hæreses* (Harvey), i. 25 and iii. 11; also Epiphanius, *Hær.* xlii. See also the editor's notes on the passages in Irenæus, who quotes other authorities also, and shows the particulars of Marcion's mutilations. [Vol. I. 429.]

3538 Quem cæderet.

3539 Posterior.

3540 See Hieronymi, *Catal. Scriptt. Eccles.* 7, and Fabricius' notes.

3541 Instrumenti.

3542 Gal. ii. 2.

Gentiles. Inasmuch, therefore, as the enlightener of St. Luke himself desired the authority of his predecessors for both his own faith and preaching, how much more may not I require for Luke's Gospel that which was necessary for the Gospel of his master.³⁵⁴³

3543 [Dr. Holmes not uniformly, yet constantly inserts the prefix St. before the name of Paul, and brackets it, greatly disfiguring the page. It is not in our author's text, but I venture to dispense with the ever-recurring brackets.]

Chapter III.³⁵⁴⁴—Marcion Insinuated the Untrustworthiness of Certain Apostles Whom St. Paul Rebuked. The Rebuke Shows that It Cannot Be Regarded as Derogating from Their Authority. The Apostolic Gospels Perfectly Authentic.

In the scheme of Marcion, on the contrary,³⁵⁴⁵ the mystery³⁵⁴⁶ of the Christian religion begins from the discipleship of Luke. Since, however, it was on its course previous to that point, it must have had³⁵⁴⁷ its own authentic materials,³⁵⁴⁸ by means of which it found its own way down to St. Luke; and by the assistance of the testimony which it bore, Luke himself becomes admissible. Well, but³⁵⁴⁹ Marcion, finding the Epistle of Paul to the Galatians (wherein he rebukes even apostles³⁵⁵⁰ for “not walking uprightly according to the truth of the gospel,”³⁵⁵¹ as well as accuses certain false apostles of perverting the gospel of Christ), labours very hard to destroy the character³⁵⁵² of those Gospels which are published as genuine³⁵⁵³ and under the name of apostles, in order, forsooth, to secure for his own Gospel the credit which he takes away from them. But then, even if he censures Peter and John and James, who were thought to be pillars, it is for a manifest reason. They seemed to be changing their company³⁵⁵⁴ from respect of persons. And yet as Paul himself “became all things to all men,”³⁵⁵⁵ that he might gain all, it was possible that Peter also might have betaken himself to the same plan of practising somewhat different from what he taught. And, in like manner, if false apostles also crept in, their character too showed itself in their insisting upon circumcision and the Jewish ceremonies. So that it was not on account of their preaching, but of their conversation, that they were marked by St. Paul, who would with equal impartiality have marked them with censure, if they had erred at all with respect to God the Creator or His Christ. Each several case will therefore have to be distinguished. When Marcion com-

3544 This is Oehler’s arrangement of the chapter, for the sake of the sense. The former editions begin this third chapter with “Sed enim Marcion nactus.”

3545 Aliud est si.

3546 Sacramentum.

3547 Habuit utique.

3548 Paraturam.

3549 Sed enim.

3550 See [Gal. ii. 13, 14.](#)

3551 Compare what has been already said in book i. chap. 20, and below in book v. chap. 3. See also Tertullian’s treatise, *De Præscript. Hæret.* chap. 23. [Kaye, p. 275.]

3552 Statum.

3553 Propria.

3554 Variare convictum.

3555 [1 Cor. ix. 22.](#)

plains that apostles are suspected (for their prevarication and dissimulation) of having even depraved the gospel, he thereby accuses Christ, by accusing those whom Christ chose. If, then, the apostles, who are censured simply for inconsistency of walk, composed the Gospel in a pure form,³⁵⁵⁶ but false apostles interpolated their true record; and if our own copies have been made from these,³⁵⁵⁷ where will that genuine text³⁵⁵⁸ of the apostle's writings be found which has not suffered adulteration? Which was it that enlightened Paul, and through him Luke? It is either completely blotted out, as if by some deluge—being obliterated by the inundation of falsifiers—in which case even Marcion does not possess the true Gospel; or else, is that very *edition* which Marcion alone possesses *the* true one, that is, of the apostles? How, then, does that agree with ours, which is said not to be (the work) of apostles, but of Luke? Or else, again, if that which Marcion uses is not to be attributed to Luke simply because it does agree with ours (which, of course,³⁵⁵⁹ is, also adulterated in its title), then it is the work of apostles. Our Gospel, therefore, which is in agreement with it, is equally the work of apostles, but also adulterated in its title.³⁵⁶⁰

3556 Integrum.

3557 Inde nostra digesta.

3558 Germanum instrumentum.

3559 That is, according to the Marcionite cavil.

3560 De titulo quoque.

Chapter IV.—Each Side Claims to Possess the True Gospel. Antiquity the Criterion of Truth in Such a Matter. Marcion's Pretensions as an Amender of the Gospel.

We must follow, then, the clue³⁵⁶¹ of our discussion, meeting every effort of our opponents with reciprocal vigor. I say that *my* Gospel is the true one; Marcion, that *his* is. I affirm that Marcion's Gospel is adulterated; Marcion, that mine is. Now what is to settle the point for us, except it be that principle³⁵⁶² of *time*, which rules that the authority lies with that which shall be found to be more ancient; and assumes as an elemental truth,³⁵⁶³ that corruption (of doctrine) belongs to the side which shall be convicted of comparative lateness in its origin.³⁵⁶⁴ For, inasmuch as error³⁵⁶⁵ is falsification of truth, it must needs be that truth therefore precede error. A thing must exist prior to its suffering any casualty;³⁵⁶⁶ and an object³⁵⁶⁷ must precede all rivalry to itself. Else how absurd it would be, that, when we have proved our position to be the older one, and Marcion's the later, ours should yet appear to be the false one, before it had even received from truth its objective existence;³⁵⁶⁸ and Marcion's should also be supposed to have experienced rivalry at our hands, even before its publication; and, in fine, that that should be thought to be the truer position which is the later one—a century³⁵⁶⁹ later than the publication of all the many and great facts and records of the Christian religion, which certainly could not have been published *without*, that is to say, *before*, the truth of the gospel. With regard, then, to the pending³⁵⁷⁰ question, of Luke's Gospel (so far as its being the common property³⁵⁷¹ of ourselves and Marcion enables it to be decisive of the truth,³⁵⁷²) that portion of it which we alone receive³⁵⁷³ is so much older than Marcion, that Marcion himself once believed it, when in the first warmth of faith he contributed money to the Catholic church, which along with himself was afterwards rejec-



3561 Funis ducendus est.

3562 Ratio.

3563 Præjudicans.

3564 Posterius revincetur. See *De Præscriptione Hæret.*, which goes on this principle of time. Compare especially chapters xxix. and xxx. [p. 256, *supra.*]

3565 Falsum.

3566 Passione.

3567 Materia.

3568 De veritate materiam.

3569 Sæculo post.

3570 Interim.

3571 Communio ejus.

3572 De veritate disceptat.

3573 Quod est secundum nos. [A note of T.'s position.]

ted,³⁵⁷⁴ when he fell away from our truth into his own heresy. What if the Marcionites have denied that he held the primitive faith amongst ourselves, in the face even of his own letter? What, if they do not acknowledge the letter? They, at any rate, receive his *Antitheses*; and more than that, they make ostentatious use³⁵⁷⁵ of them. Proof out of these is enough for me. For if the Gospel, said to be Luke's which is current amongst us³⁵⁷⁶ (we shall see whether it be also current with Marcion), is the very one which, as Marcion argues in his *Antitheses*, was interpolated by the defenders of Judaism, for the purpose of such a conglomeration with it of the law and the prophets as should enable them out of it to fashion their Christ, surely he could not have so argued about it, unless he had found it (in such a form). No one censures things before they exist,³⁵⁷⁷ when he knows not whether they will come to pass. Emendation never precedes the fault. To be sure,³⁵⁷⁸ an amender of that Gospel, which had been all topsy-turvy³⁵⁷⁹ from the days of Tiberius to those of Antoninus, first presented himself in Marcion alone—so long looked for by Christ, who was all along regretting that he had been in so great a hurry to send out his apostles without the support of Marcion! But for all that,³⁵⁸⁰ heresy, which is for ever mending the Gospels, and corrupting them in the act, is an affair of man's audacity, not of God's authority; and if Marcion be even a disciple, he is yet not "above his master,"³⁵⁸¹ if Marcion be an apostle, still as Paul says, "Whether it be I or they, so we preach;"³⁵⁸² if Marcion be a prophet, even "the spirits of the prophets will be subject to the prophets,"³⁵⁸³ for they are not the authors of confusion, but of peace; or if Marcion be actually an angel, he must rather be designated "as anathema than as a preacher of the gospel,"³⁵⁸⁴ because it is a strange gospel which he has preached. So that, whilst he amends, he only confirms both positions: both that our Gospel is the prior one, for he amends that which he has previously fallen in with; and that *that* is the later one, which, by putting it together out of the emendations of ours, he has made his own Gospel, and a novel one too.

3574 Projectam. [Catholic = Primitive.]

3575 Præferunt.

3576 Penes nos.

3577 Post futura.

3578 Sane.

3579 Eversi.

3580 Nisi quod.

3581 [Matt. x. 24.](#)

3582 [1 Cor. xv. 11.](#)

3583 [1 Cor. xiv. 32.](#)

3584 [Gal. i. 8.](#)

Chapter V.—By the Rule of Antiquity, the Catholic Gospels are Found to Be True, Including the Real St. Luke's. Marcion's Only a Mutilated Edition. The Heretic's Weakness and Inconsistency in Ignoring the Other Gospels.³⁵⁸⁵

On the whole, then, if that is evidently more true which is earlier, if that is earlier which is from the very beginning, if that is from the beginning which has the apostles for its authors, then it will certainly be quite as evident, that that comes down from the apostles, which has been kept as a sacred deposit³⁵⁸⁶ in the churches of the apostles. Let us see what milk the Corinthians drank from Paul; to what rule *of faith* the Galatians were brought for correction; what the Philippians, the Thessalonians, the Ephesians read *by it*; what utterance also the Romans give, so very near³⁵⁸⁷ (to the apostles), to whom Peter and Paul conjointly³⁵⁸⁸ bequeathed the gospel even sealed with their own blood. We have also *St. John's* foster churches.³⁵⁸⁹ For although Marcion rejects his Apocalypse, the order³⁵⁹⁰ of the bishops (thereof), when traced up to their origin, will yet rest on John as their author. In the same manner is recognised the excellent source³⁵⁹¹ of the other churches. I say, therefore, that in them (and not simply such of them as were founded by apostles, but in all those which are united with them in the fellowship of the mystery *of the gospel of Christ*³⁵⁹²) that Gospel of Luke which we are defending with all our might has stood its ground from its very first publication; whereas Marcion's Gospel is not known to most people, and to none whatever is it known without being at the same time³⁵⁹³ condemned. It too, of course,³⁵⁹⁴ has its churches, but specially its own—as late as they are spurious; and should you want to know their original,³⁵⁹⁵ you will more easily discover apostasy in it than apostolicity, with Marcion forsooth as their founder, or some one of Marcion's swarm.³⁵⁹⁶ Even wasps make combs;³⁵⁹⁷ so also these Marcionites make churches. The same authority of the apostolic churches will



3585 [On this whole chapter and subject, consult Kaye, pp. 278–289.]

3586 Sacrosanctum. Inviolatè. Westcott, *On the Canon*, p. 384. Compare *De Præscript. Hæret.* c. 36, *supra*.

3587 De proximo. Westcott renders this, “who are nearest to us.” See *in loco*.

3588 et...et. [N.B. Not Peter's See, then.]

3589 Alumnas ecclesias. He seems to allude to the seven churches of the Apocalypse.

3590 [Not the *Order* of bishops (as we now speak) but of their succession from St. John. Kaye, p. 219.]

3591 Generositas.

3592 De societate sacramenti. [i.e. Catholic Unity.]

3593 Eadem.

3594 Plane.

3595 Censum.

3596 Examine.

3597 Favos. See Pliny, *Nat. Hist.* xi. 21.

afford evidence³⁵⁹⁸ to the other Gospels also, which we possess equally through their means,³⁵⁹⁹ and according to their usage—I mean the Gospels of John and Matthew—whilst that which Mark published may be affirmed to be Peter's³⁶⁰⁰ whose interpreter Mark was. For even Luke's form³⁶⁰¹ of the Gospel men usually ascribe to Paul.³⁶⁰² And it may well seem³⁶⁰³ that the works which disciples publish belong to their masters. Well, then, Marcion ought to be called to a strict account³⁶⁰⁴ concerning these (other Gospels) also, for having omitted them, and insisted in preference³⁶⁰⁵ on Luke; as if they, too, had not had free course in the churches, as well as Luke's Gospel, from the beginning. Nay, it is even more credible that they³⁶⁰⁶ existed from the very beginning; for, being the work of apostles, they were prior, and coeval in origin with³⁶⁰⁷ the churches themselves. But how comes it to pass, if the apostles published nothing, that their disciples were more forward in such a work; for they could not have been disciples, without any instruction from their masters? If, then, it be evident that these (Gospels) also were current in the churches, why did not Marcion touch them—either to amend them if they were adulterated, or to acknowledge them if they were uncorrupt? For it is but natural³⁶⁰⁸ that they who were perverting the gospel, should be more solicitous about the perversion of those things whose authority they knew to be more generally received. Even the false apostles (were so called) on this very account, because they imitated the apostles by means of their falsification. In *as* far, then, as he might have amended what there was to amend, if found corrupt, in *so* far did he firmly imply³⁶⁰⁹ that all was free from corruption which he did not think required amendment. In short,³⁶¹⁰ he simply amended what he thought was corrupt; though, indeed, not even this justly, because it was not really corrupt. For if the (Gospels) of the apostles³⁶¹¹ have come down to us in

3598 Patrocina bitor. [Jones on the Canon, Vol. I. p. 66.]

3599 Proinde per illas.

3600 See Hieronymus, *Catal. Scriptt. Eccles.* c. 8.

3601 Digestum.

3602 See above, chap. 2, p. 347.

3603 Capit videri.

3604 Flagitandus.

3605 Potius institerit.

3606 The Gospels of the apostles John and Matthew, and perhaps Mark's also, as being St. Peter's.

3607 Dedicata cum.

3608 Competit.

3609 Confirmavit.

3610 Denique.

3611 Apostolica, i.e., evangelia.

their integrity, whilst Luke's, which is received amongst us,³⁶¹² so far accords with their rule as to be on a par with them in permanency of reception in the churches, it clearly follows that Luke's Gospel also has come down to us in like integrity until the sacrilegious treatment of Marcion. In short, when Marcion laid hands on it, it then became diverse and hostile to the Gospels of the apostles. I will therefore advise his followers, that they either change these Gospels, however late to do so, into a conformity with their own, whereby they may seem to be in agreement with the apostolic writings (for they are daily retouching their work, as daily they are convicted by us); or else that they blush for their master, who stands self-condemned³⁶¹³ either way—when once³⁶¹⁴ he hands on the truth of the gospel conscience smitten, or again³⁶¹⁵ subverts it by shameless tampering. Such are the summary arguments which we use, when we take up arms³⁶¹⁶ against heretics for the faith³⁶¹⁷ of the gospel, maintaining both that order of periods, which rules that a late date is the mark of forgers,³⁶¹⁸ and that authority of churches³⁶¹⁹ which lends support to the tradition of the apostles; because truth must needs precede the forgery, and proceed straight from those by whom it has been handed on.



3612 That is, the canonical Gospel of St. Luke, as distinct from Marcion's corruption of it. [N.B. "Us" = Catholics.]

3613 Traducto.

3614 Nunc—nunc.

3615 Nunc—nunc.

3616 Expedimur.

3617 Fide, integrity.

3618 Posteritati falsariorum præscribentem.

3619 [Mark the authority of churches. He uses the plural—*quod ab omnibus*.]

Chapter VI.—Marcion's Object in Adulterating the Gospel. No Difference Between the Christ of the Creator and the Christ of the Gospel. No Rival Christ Admissible. The Connection of the True Christ with the Dispensation of the Old Testament Asserted.

But we now advance a step further on, and challenge (as we promised to do) the very Gospel of Marcion, with the intention of thus proving that it has been adulterated. For it is certain³⁶²⁰ that the whole aim at which he has strenuously laboured even in the drawing up of his *Antitheses*, centres in this, that he may establish a diversity between the Old and the New Testaments, so that his own Christ may be separate from the Creator, as belonging to this rival god, *and* as alien from the law and the prophets. It is certain, also, that with this view³⁶²¹ he has erased everything that was contrary to his own opinion and made for the Creator, as if it had been interpolated by His advocates, whilst everything which agreed with his own opinion he has retained. The latter statements we shall strictly examine;³⁶²² and if they shall turn out rather for our side, and shatter the assumption of Marcion, we shall embrace them. It will then become evident, that in retaining them he has shown no less of the defect of blindness, which characterizes heresy, than he displayed when he erased all the former class of subjects. Such, then, is to be³⁶²³ the drift and form of my little treatise; subject, of course, to whatever condition may have become requisite on both sides of the question.³⁶²⁴ Marcion has laid down the position, that Christ who in the days of Tiberius was, by a previously unknown god, revealed for the salvation of all nations, is a different being from Him who was ordained by God the Creator for the restoration of the Jewish state, and who is yet to come. Between these he interposes the separation of³⁶²⁵ a great and absolute difference—as great as lies between what is just and what is good;³⁶²⁶ as great as lies between the law and the gospel; as great, (in short,) as is the difference between Judaism and Christianity. Hence will arise also our rule,³⁶²⁷ by which we determine³⁶²⁸ that there ought to be nothing in common between the Christ of the rival god and the Creator; but

3620 Certe, for certo.

3621 Propterea.

3622 Conveniemus.

3623 Sic habebit.

3624 This seems to be the sense of the words, "sub illa utique conditione quæ ex utraque parte conducta sit."

3625 Scindit.

3626 That is, between what is severe and judicial and punitive on one side, that is, the Creator's; and what is mild, merciful, and forgiving, on the other, that is, the Redeemer's side (Rigalt.).

3627 Præscriptio.

3628 Defigimus.

that (Christ) must be pronounced to belong to the Creator,³⁶²⁹ if He has administered His dispensations, fulfilled His prophecies, promoted³⁶³⁰ His laws, given reality to³⁶³¹ His promises, revived His mighty power,³⁶³² remoulded His determinations,³⁶³³ expressed His attributes, His properties. This law and this rule I earnestly request the reader to have ever in his mind, and so let him begin to investigate whether Christ be Marcion's or the Creator's.

3629 Creatoris pronunciantum.

3630 Adjuverit.

3631 Repræsentaverit.

3632 Restauraverit virtutes ejus.

3633 Sententias reformaverit.

Chapter VII.—Marcion Rejected the Preceding Portion of St. Luke's Gospel. Therefore This Review Opens with an Examination of the Case of the Evil Spirit in the Synagogue of Capernaum. He Whom the Demon Acknowledged Was the Creator's Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius³⁶³⁴ (for such is Marcion's proposition) he "came down to the Galilean city of Capernaum," of course meaning³⁶³⁵ from the heaven of the Creator, to which he had previously descended from his own. What then had been his course,³⁶³⁶ for him to be described as first descending from his own heaven to the Creator's? For why should I abstain from censuring those parts of the statement which do not satisfy the requirement of an ordinary narrative, but always end in a falsehood? To be sure, our censure has been once for all expressed in the question, which we have already³⁶³⁷ suggested: Whether, when descending through the Creator's domain, and indeed in hostility to him, he could possibly have been admitted by him, and by him been transmitted to the earth, which was equally his territory? Now, however, I want also to know the remainder of his course down, assuming that he came down. For we must not be too nice in inquiring³⁶³⁸ whether it is supposed that he was *seen* in any place. To come into view³⁶³⁹ indicates³⁶⁴⁰ a sudden unexpected glance, which for a moment fixed³⁶⁴¹ the eye upon the object that passed before the view, without staying. But when it happens that a descent has been effected, it is apparent, and comes under the notice of the eyes.³⁶⁴² Moreover, it takes account of *fact*, and thus obliges one to examine in what condition with what preparation,³⁶⁴³ with how much violence or moderation, and further, at what time of the day or night, the descent was made; who, again, saw the descent, who reported it, who seriously avouched the fact, which certainly was not easy to be believed, even after the asseveration. It is, in short, too

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3634 [Luke iii. 1 and iv. 31.](#)

3635 *Utique.*

3636 *Ecquid ordinis.*

3637 See above, book i. chap. xxiii. [Comp. i. cap. xix.]

3638 This is here the force of *viderit*, our author's very favourite idiom.

3639 *Apparere.*

3640 *Sapit.*

3641 *Impegerit.*

3642 *Descendisse autem, dum fit, videtur et subit oculos.* Probably this bit of characteristic Latinity had better be rendered thus: "The accomplishment of a descent, however, is, whilst happening, a visible process, and one that meets the eye." Of the various readings, "dum sit," "dum it," "dum fit," we take the last with Oehler, only understanding the clause as a parenthesis.

3643 *Suggestu.*

bad³⁶⁴⁴ that Romulus should have had in Proculus an avoucher of his ascent to heaven, when the Christ of (this) god could not find any one to announce his descent from heaven; just as if the ascent of the one and the descent of the other were not effected on one and the same ladder of falsehood! Then, what had he to do with Galilee, if he did not belong to the Creator by whom³⁶⁴⁵ that region was destined (for His Christ) when about to enter on His ministry?³⁶⁴⁶ As Isaiah says: “Drink in this first, and be prompt, O region of Zabulon and land of Nephthalim, and ye others who (inhabit) the sea-coast, and that of Jordan, Galilee of the nations, ye people who sit in darkness, behold a great light; upon you, who inhabit (that) land, sitting in the shadow of death, the light hath arisen.”³⁶⁴⁷ It is, however, well that Marcion’s god does claim to be the enlightener of the nations, that so he might have the better reason for coming down from heaven; only, if it must needs be,³⁶⁴⁸ he should rather have made Pontus his place of descent than Galilee. But since both the place and the work of illumination according to the prophecy are compatible with Christ, we begin to discern³⁶⁴⁹ that He is the subject of the prophecy, which shows that at the very outset of His ministry, He came not to destroy the law and the prophets, but rather to fulfil them;³⁶⁵⁰ for Marcion has erased the passage as an interpolation.³⁶⁵¹ It will, however, be vain for him to deny that Christ uttered in word what He forthwith did partially indeed. For the prophecy about place He at once fulfilled. From heaven straight to the synagogue. As the adage runs: “The business on which we are come, do at once.” Marcion must even expunge from the Gospel, “I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel;”³⁶⁵² and, “It is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it to dogs,”³⁶⁵³—in order, forsooth, that Christ may not appear to be an Israelite. But facts will satisfy me instead of words. Withdraw all the sayings of my

3644 Indignum.

3645 Cui.

3646 Ingressuro prædicationem.

3647 This is the literal rendering of Tertullian’s version of the prophet’s words, which occur chap. ix. 1, 2. The first clause closely follows the LXX. (ed. Tisch.): Τοῦτο πρῶτον πίε, ταχύ ποίει. This curious passage is explained by Grotius (on [Matt. iv. 14](#)) as a mistake of ancient copyists; as if what the Seventy had originally rendered ταχύ ποίει, from the *hiphil* of קלל, had been faultily written ταχύ πίε, and the latter had crept into the text with the marginal note πρῶτον, instead of a repetition of ταχύ. However this be, Tertullian’s old Latin Bible had the passage thus: “Hoc primum bibito, cito facito, regio Zabulon,” etc.

3648 Si utique.

3649 Agnoscere.

3650 [Matt. v. 17](#).

3651 Additum.

3652 [Matt. xv. 24](#).

3653 [Matt. xv. 26](#).

Christ, His acts shall speak. Lo, He enters the synagogue; surely (this is going) to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Behold, it is to Israelites first that He offers the “bread” of His doctrine; surely it is because they are “children” that He shows them this priority.³⁶⁵⁴ Observe, He does not yet impart it to others; surely He passes them by as “dogs.” For to whom else could He better have imparted it, than to such as were strangers to the Creator, if He especially belonged not to the Creator? And yet how could He have been admitted into the synagogue—one so abruptly appearing,³⁶⁵⁵ so unknown; one, of whom no one had as yet been apprised of His tribe, His nation, His family, and lastly, His enrolment in the census of Augustus—that most faithful witness of the Lord’s nativity, kept in the archives of Rome? They certainly would have remembered, if they did not know Him to be circumcised, that He must not be admitted into their most holy places. And even if He had the general right of entering³⁶⁵⁶ the synagogue (like other Jews), yet the function of giving instruction was allowed only to a man who was extremely well known, and examined and tried, and for some time invested with the privilege after experience duly attested elsewhere. But “they were all astonished at His doctrine.” Of course they were; “for, says (St. Luke), “His word was with power³⁶⁵⁷—not because He taught in opposition to the law and the prophets. No doubt, His divine discourse³⁶⁵⁸ gave forth both power and grace, building up rather than pulling down the substance of the law and the prophets. Otherwise, instead of “astonishment, they would feel horror. It would not be admiration, but aversion, prompt and sure, which they would bestow on one who was the destroyer of law and prophets, and the especial propounder as a natural consequence of a rival god; for he would have been unable to teach anything to the disparagement of the law and the prophets, and so far of the Creator also, without premising the doctrine of a different and rival divinity. Inasmuch, then, as the Scripture makes no other statement on the matter than that the simple force and power of His word produced astonishment, it more naturally³⁶⁵⁹ shows that His teaching was in accordance with the Creator by not denying (that it was so), than that it was in opposition to the Creator, by not asserting (such a fact). And thus He will either have to be acknowledged as belonging to Him,³⁶⁶⁰ in accordance with whom He taught; or else will have to be adjudged a deceiver since He taught in accordance with One whom He had come to oppose. In the same passage, “the spirit of an unclean devil” exclaims: “What have we to do with Thee,



3654 Præfert.

3655 Tam repentinus.

3656 Etsi passim adiretur.

3657 [Luke iv. 32.](#)

3658 Eloquium.

3659 Facilius.

3660 That is, the Creator.

Thou Jesus? Art Thou come to destroy us? I know Thee who Thou art, the Holy One of God.”³⁶⁶¹ I do not here raise the question whether this appellation was suitable to one who ought not to be called Christ, unless he were sent by the Creator.³⁶⁶² Elsewhere³⁶⁶³ there has been already given a full consideration of His titles.

My present discussion is, how the evil spirit could have known that He was called by such a name, when there had never at any time been uttered about Him a single prophecy by a god who was unknown, and up to that time silent, of whom it was not possible for Him to be attested as “the Holy One,” as (of a god) unknown even to his own Creator. What similar *event* could he then have published³⁶⁶⁴ of a *new* deity, whereby he might betoken for “the holy one” of the rival god? Simply that he went into the synagogue, and did nothing even in word against the Creator? As therefore he could not by any means acknowledge him, whom he was ignorant of, to be Jesus and the Holy One of God; so did he acknowledge Him whom he knew (to be both). For he remembered how that the prophet had prophesied³⁶⁶⁵ of “the Holy One” of God, and how that God’s name of “Jesus” was in the son of Nun.³⁶⁶⁶ These facts he had also received³⁶⁶⁷ from the angel, according to our Gospel: “Wherefore that which shall be born of thee shall be called *the Holy One*, the Son of God;”³⁶⁶⁸ and, “Thou shalt call his name *Jesus*.”³⁶⁶⁹ Thus he actually had (although only an evil spirit) some idea of the Lord’s dispensation, rather than of any strange and heretofore imperfectly understood one. Because he also premised this question: “What have we to do with Thee?”—not as if referring to a strange Jesus, to whom pertain the *evil* spirits of the Creator. Nor did he say, What hast Thou to do with us? but, “What have we to do with Thee?” as if deploring himself, and deprecating his own calamity; at the prospect of which he adds: “Art Thou come to destroy us?” So completely did he acknowledge in Jesus the Son of that God who was judicial and avenging, and (so to speak) severe,³⁶⁷⁰ and not of him who was simply good,³⁶⁷¹ and knew not how to destroy or how to punish! Now for what purpose have we

3661 [Luke iv. 33, 34.](#)

3662 Si non Creatoris.

3663 See above, in book iii. chap. xii., on the name *Emmanuel*; in chap. xv., on the name *Christ*; and in chap. xvi., on the name *Jesus*.

3664 Quid tale ediderit.

3665 [Ps. xvi. 10](#), and probably [Dan. ix. 24](#).

3666 Compare what was said above in book iii., chap. xvi. p. 335.

3667 Exceperat.

3668 Such is our author’s reading of [Luke i. 35](#).

3669 [Matt. i. 21](#).

3670 Sævi.

3671 Optimi.

adduced his passage first?³⁶⁷² In order to show that Jesus was neither acknowledged by the evil spirit, nor affirmed by Himself, to be any other than the Creator's. Well, but Jesus rebuked him, you say. To be sure he did, as being an envious (spirit), and in his very confession only petulant, and evil in adulation—just as if it had been Christ's highest glory to have come for the destruction of demons, and not for the salvation of mankind; whereas His wish really was that His disciples should not glory in the subjection of evil spirits but in the fair beauty of salvation.³⁶⁷³ Why else³⁶⁷⁴ did He rebuke him? If it was because he was entirely wrong (in his invocation), then He was neither Jesus nor the Holy One of God; if it was because he was partially wrong—for having supposed him to be, rightly enough,³⁶⁷⁵ Jesus and the Holy One of God, but also as belonging to the Creator—most unjustly would He have rebuked him for thinking what he knew he ought to think (about Him), and for not supposing that of Him which he knew not that he ought to suppose—that he was another Jesus, and the holy one of the other god. If, however, the rebuke has not a more probable meaning³⁶⁷⁶ than that which we ascribe to it, it follows that the evil spirit made no mistake, and was not rebuked for lying; for it was Jesus Himself, besides whom it was impossible for the evil spirit to have acknowledged any other, whilst Jesus affirmed that He was He whom the evil spirit had acknowledged, by not rebuking him for uttering a lie.



3672 Præmisimus.

3673 De candida salutis: see [Luke x. 20](#).

3674 Aut cur.

3675 Quidem.

3676 Verisimiliorem statum.

Chapter VIII.—Other Proofs from the Same Chapter, that Jesus, Who Preached at Nazareth, and Was Acknowledged by Certain Demons as Christ the Son of God, Was the Creator’s Christ. As Occasion Offers, the Docetic Errors of Marcion are Exposed.

The Christ of the Creator had³⁶⁷⁷ to be called a *Nazarene* according to prophecy; whence the Jews also designate us, on that very account,³⁶⁷⁸ *Nazerenes*³⁶⁷⁹ after Him. For we are they of whom it is written, “Her Nazarites were whiter than snow;”³⁶⁸⁰ even they who were once defiled with the stains of sin, and darkened with the clouds of ignorance. But to Christ the title Nazarene was destined to become a suitable one, from the hiding-place of His infancy, for which He went down and dwelt at Nazareth,³⁶⁸¹ to escape from Archelaus the son of Herod. This fact I have not refrained from mentioning on this account, because it behoved Marcion’s Christ to have forborne all connection whatever with the *domestic* localities of the Creator’s Christ, when he had so many towns in Judæa which had not been by the prophets thus assigned³⁶⁸² to the Creator’s Christ. But Christ will be (the Christ) of the prophets, wheresoever He is found in accordance with the prophets. And yet even at Nazareth He is not remarked as having preached anything new,³⁶⁸³ whilst in another *verse* He is said to have been rejected³⁶⁸⁴ by reason of a simple proverb.³⁶⁸⁵ Here at once, when I observe that they laid their hands on Him, I cannot help drawing a conclusion respecting His bodily substance, which cannot be believed to have been a phantom,³⁶⁸⁶ since it was capable of being touched and even violently handled, when He was seized and taken and led to the very brink of a precipice. For although He escaped through the midst of them, He had already experienced their rough treatment, and afterwards went His way, no doubt³⁶⁸⁷ because the crowd (as usually happens) gave way, or was even broken through; but not because it was eluded as by an impalpable disguise,³⁶⁸⁸ which, if there had been such, would not at all have submitted to any touch.

3677 Habebat.

3678 Ipso nomine, or by His very name.

3679 Nazaræos; or, *Nazarites*. [Christians were still so called by the Jews in the Third Century. Kaye, 446.]

3680 [Lam. iv. 7.](#)

3681 Descendit apud, see [Luke iv. 16–30.](#)

3682 Emancipata.

3683 [Luke iv. 23.](#)

3684 [Luke iv. 29.](#)

3685 [Luke iv. 24.](#)

3686 A rebuke of Marcion’s *Docetic* views of Christ.

3687 Scilicet.

3688 Per caliginem.

“Tangere enim et tangi, nisi corpus, nulla potest res,”³⁶⁸⁹

is even a sentence worthy of a place in the world’s wisdom. In short, He did himself touch others, upon whom He laid His hands, which were capable of being felt, and conferred the blessings of healing,³⁶⁹⁰ which were not less true, not less unimaginary, than were the hands wherewith He bestowed them. He was therefore the very Christ of Isaiah, the healer of our sicknesses.³⁶⁹¹ “Surely,” says he, “He hath borne our griefs and *carried* our sorrows.” Now the Greeks are accustomed to use for *carry* a word which also signifies to *take away*. A general promise is enough for me in passing.³⁶⁹² Whatever were the cures which Jesus effected, He is mine. We will come, however, to the kinds of cures. To liberate men, then, from evil spirits, is a cure of sickness. Accordingly, wicked spirits (just in the manner of our former example) used to go forth with a testimony, exclaiming, “Thou art the Son of God,”³⁶⁹³—of what God, is clear enough from the case itself. But they were rebuked, and ordered not to speak; precisely because³⁶⁹⁴ Christ willed Himself to be proclaimed by *men*, not by unclean spirits, as the Son of God—even that Christ alone to whom this was befitting, because He had sent beforehand men through whom He might become known, and who were assuredly worthier preachers. It was natural to Him³⁶⁹⁵ to refuse the proclamation of an unclean spirit, at whose command there was an abundance of saints. He, however,³⁶⁹⁶ who had never been foretold (if, indeed, he wished to be acknowledged; for if he did not wish so much, his coming was in vain), would not have spurned the testimony of an alien or any sort of substance, who did not happen to have a substance of his own,³⁶⁹⁷ but had descended in an alien one. And now, too, as the destroyer also of the Creator, he would have desired nothing better than to be acknowledged by *His* spirits, and to be divulged for the sake of being feared:³⁶⁹⁸ only that Marcion says³⁶⁹⁹ that his god is not feared; maintaining that a good being is not an object of fear, but only a judicial being, in whom reside the



3689 “For nothing can touch and be touched but a bodily substance.” This line from Lucretius, *De Rerum Natura*, i. 305, is again quoted by Tertullian in his *De Anima*, chap. v. (Oehler).

3690 [Luke iv. 40.](#)

3691 See [Isa. liii. 4.](#)

3692 Interim.

3693 [Luke iv. 41.](#)

3694 Proinde enim.

3695 Illius erat.

3696 Porro.

3697 Propriæ non habebat.

3698 Præ timore.

3699 See above, book i. chap. vii. xxvi. and xxvii.

grounds³⁷⁰⁰ of fear—anger, severity, judgments, vengeance, condemnation. But it was from fear, undoubtedly, that the evil spirits were cowed.³⁷⁰¹ Therefore they confessed that (Christ) was the Son of a God who was to be feared, because they would have an occasion of not submitting if there were none for fearing. Besides, He showed that He was to be feared, because He drove them out, not by persuasion like a good being, but by command and reproof. Or else did he³⁷⁰² reprove them, because they were making him an object of fear, when all the while he did not want to be feared? And in what manner did he wish them to go forth, when they could not do so except with fear? So that he fell into the dilemma³⁷⁰³ of having to conduct himself contrary to his nature, whereas he might in his simple goodness have at once treated them with leniency. He fell, too, into another false position³⁷⁰⁴—of prevarication, when he permitted himself to be feared by the demons as the Son of the Creator, that he might drive them out, not indeed by his own power, but by the authority of the Creator. “He departed, and went into a desert place.”³⁷⁰⁵ This was, indeed, the Creator’s customary region. It was proper that the Word³⁷⁰⁶ should there appear in body, where He had aforetime, wrought in a cloud. To the gospel also was suitable that condition of place³⁷⁰⁷ which had once been determined on for the law.³⁷⁰⁸ “Let the wilderness and the solitary place, therefore, be glad and rejoice;” so had Isaiah promised.³⁷⁰⁹ When “stayed” by the crowds, He said, “I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also.”³⁷¹⁰ Had He displayed His God anywhere yet? I suppose as yet nowhere. But was He speaking of those who knew of another god also? I do not believe so. If, therefore, neither He had preached, nor they had known, any other God but the Creator, He was announcing the kingdom of that God whom He knew to be the only God known to those who were listening to Him.

3700 *Materiae.*

3701 *Cedebant.*

3702 *Aut nunquid.*

3703 *Necessitatem.*

3704 *In aliam notam.*

3705 [Luke iv. 42.](#)

3706 *Sermonem.* [*Nota Bene, Acts vii. 38.*]

3707 *Habitus loci.*

3708 *The law was given in the wilderness of Sinai; see Ex. xix. 1.*

3709 [Isa. xxxv. 1.](#)

3710 [Luke iv. 42, 43.](#)

Chapter IX.—Out of St. Luke's Fifth Chapter are Found Proofs of Christ's Belonging to the Creator, E.g. In the Call of Fishermen to the Apostolic Office, and in the Cleansing of the Leper. Christ Compared with the Prophet Elisha.

Out of so many kinds of occupations, why indeed had He such respect for that of fishermen, as to select from it for apostles Simon and the sons of Zebedee (for it cannot seem to be the mere fact itself for which the narrative was meant to be drawn out³⁷¹¹), saying to Peter, when he trembled at the very large draught of the fishes, "Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men?"³⁷¹² By saying this, He suggested to them the meaning of the fulfilled prophecy, that it was even He who by Jeremiah had foretold, "Behold, I will send many fishers; and they shall fish them,"³⁷¹³ that is, men. Then at last they left their boats, and followed Him, understanding that it was He who had begun to accomplish what He had declared. It is quite another case, when he affected to choose from the college of shipmasters, intending one day to appoint the shipmaster Marcion his apostle. We have indeed already laid it down, in opposition to his *Antitheses*, that the position of Marcion derives no advantage from the diversity which he supposes to exist between the Law and the Gospel, inasmuch as even this was ordained by the Creator, and indeed predicted in the promise of the new Law, and the new Word, and the new Testament. Since, however, he quotes with especial care,³⁷¹⁴ as a proof in his domain,³⁷¹⁵ a certain companion in misery (*συνταλαίπωρον*), and associate in hatred (*συμμισούμενον*), with himself, for the cure of leprosy,³⁷¹⁶ I shall not be sorry to meet him, and before anything else to point out to him the force of the law figuratively interpreted, which, in this example of a leper (who was not to be touched, but was rather to be removed from all intercourse with others), prohibited any communication with a person who was defiled with sins, with whom the apostle also forbids us even to eat food,³⁷¹⁷ forasmuch as the taint of sins would be communicated as if contagious, wherever a man should mix himself with the sinner. The Lord, therefore, wishing that the law should be more profoundly understood as signifying spiritual truths by carnal facts³⁷¹⁸—and

3711 Argumentum processurum erat.

3712 See [Luke v. 1–11](#).

3713 [Jer. xvi. 16](#).

3714 Attentius argumentatur.

3715 Apud illum, i.e., the Creator.

3716 [Luke v. 12–14](#).

3717 [1 Cor. v. 11](#).

3718 Per carnalia, by *material* things.

thus³⁷¹⁹ not destroying, but rather building up, that *law* which He wanted to have more earnestly acknowledged—touched the leper, by whom (even although as man He might have been defiled) He could not be defiled as God, being of course incorruptible. The prescription, therefore, could not be meant for Him, that He was bound to observe the law and not touch the unclean person, seeing that contact with the unclean would not cause defilement to Him. I thus teach that this (immunity) is consistent in my Christ, the rather when I show that it is not consistent in yours. Now, if it was as an enemy³⁷²⁰ of the law that He touched the leper—disregarding the precept of the law by a contempt of the defilement—how could he be defiled, when he possessed not a body³⁷²¹ which could be defiled? For a phantom is not susceptible of defilement. He therefore, who could not be defiled, as being a phantom, will not have an immunity from pollution by any divine power, but owing to his fantastic vacuity; nor can he be regarded as having despised pollution, who had not in fact any material capacity³⁷²² for it; nor, in like manner, as having destroyed the law, who had escaped defilement from the occasion of his phantom nature, not from any display of virtue. If, however, the Creator's prophet Elisha cleansed Naaman the Syrian alone,³⁷²³ to the exclusion of³⁷²⁴ so many lepers in Israel,³⁷²⁵ this fact contributes nothing to the distinction of Christ, as if he were in this way the better one for cleansing this Israelite leper, although a stranger to him, whom his own Lord had been unable to cleanse. The cleansing of the Syrian rather³⁷²⁶ was significant throughout the nations of the world³⁷²⁷ of their own cleansing in Christ their light,³⁷²⁸ steeped as they were in the stains of the seven deadly sins:³⁷²⁹ idolatry, blasphemy, murder, adultery, fornication, false-witness, and fraud.³⁷³⁰ Seven times, therefore,

3719 Hoc nomine.

3720 Æmulus.

3721 Another allusion to Marcion's *Docetic* doctrine.

3722 Materiam.

3723 Unicum.

3724 Ex., literally, "alone of." So [Luke iv. 27](#).

3725 Compare [2 Kings v. 9–14](#) with [Luke iv. 27](#).

3726 Facilius—rather than of Israelites.

3727 Per Nationes. [Bishop Andrewes thus classifies the "Sins of the Nations," as Tertullian's idea seems to have suggested: (1) *Pride*, Amorite; (2) *Envy*, Hittite; (3) *Wrath*, Perizzite; (4) *Gluttony*, Gergashite; (5) *Lechery*, Hivite; (6) *Covetousness*, Canaanite; (7) *Sloth*, Jebusite.]

3728 Compare, in Simeon's song, [Luke ii. 32](#), the designation, "A light to lighten the Gentiles."

3729 [See Elucidation I.]

3730 Such seems to be the meaning of the obscure passage in the original, "Syro facilius emundato significato per nationes emundationis in Christo lumine earum quæ septem maculis, capitalium delictorum inhorrent, idoatria," etc. We have treated *significato* as one member of an ablative absolute clause, from *significatum*, a noun occurring in Gloss. Lat. Gr. synonymous with δῆλωσις. Rigault, in a note on the passage, imputes the ob-

as if once for each,³⁷³¹ did he wash in Jordan; both in order that he might celebrate the expiation of a perfect hebdomad;³⁷³² and because the virtue and fulness of the one baptism was *thus* solemnly imputed³⁷³³ to Christ, alone, who was one day to establish on earth not only a revelation, but also a baptism, endowed with compendious efficacy.³⁷³⁴ Even Marcion finds here an antithesis:³⁷³⁵ how that Elisha indeed required a material resource, applied water, and that seven times; whereas Christ, by the employment of a word only, and that but once for all, instantly effected³⁷³⁶ the cure. And surely I might venture³⁷³⁷ to claim³⁷³⁸ the Very Word also as of the Creator's substance. There is nothing of which He who was the primitive Author is not also the more powerful one. Forsooth,³⁷³⁹ it is incredible that that power of the Creator should have, by a word, produced a remedy for a single malady, which once by a word brought into being so vast a fabric as the world! From what can the Christ of the Creator be better discerned, than from the power of His word? But Christ is on this account another (Christ), because He acted differently from Elisha—because, *in fact*, the master is more powerful than his servant! Why, Marcion, do you lay down the rule, that things are done by servants just as they are by their very masters? Are you not afraid that it will turn to your discredit, if you deny that Christ belongs to the Creator, on the ground that He was *once* more powerful than a servant of the Creator—since, in comparison with the weakness of Elisha, He is acknowledged to be the greater, if indeed greater!³⁷⁴⁰ For the cure is the same, although there is a difference in the working of it. What has your Christ performed more than my Elisha? Nay, what great thing has the word of your Christ per-

scurity to Tertullian's arguing on the Marcionite hypothesis. "Marcion," says he, "held that the prophets, like Elisha, belonged to the Creator, and Christ to the good God. To magnify Christ's beneficence, he prominently dwells on the alleged fact, that Christ, although a stranger to the Creator's world, yet vouchsafed to do good in it. This vain conceit Tertullian refutes from the Marcionite hypothesis itself. God the Creator, said they, had found Himself incapable of cleansing this Israelite; but He had more easily cleansed the Syrian. Christ, however, cleansed the Israelite, and so showed himself the superior power. Tertullian denies both positions."

3731 Quasi per singulos titulos.

3732 There was a mystic completeness in the number *seven*.

3733 Dicabatur.

3734 Sicut sermonem compendiatum, ita et lavacrum. In chap. i. of this book, the N.T. is called the *compendiatum*. This illustrates the present phrase.

3735 Et hoc opponit.

3736 Repræsentavit.

3737 Quasi non audeam.

3738 Vindicare in.

3739 Plane. An ironical cavil from the Marcionite view.

3740 Si tamen major.

formed, when it has *simply* done that which a river of the Creator effected? On the same principle occurs all the rest. So far as renouncing all human glory went, He forbade the man to publish abroad *the cure*; but so far as the honour of the law was concerned, He requested that the usual course should be followed: "Go, show thyself to the priest, and present the offering which Moses commanded."³⁷⁴¹ For the figurative signs of the law in its types He still would have observed, because of their prophetic import.³⁷⁴² These types signified that a man, once a sinner, but afterwards purified³⁷⁴³ from the stains thereof by the word of God, was bound to offer unto God in the temple a gift, even prayer and thanksgiving in the church through Christ Jesus, who is the Catholic Priest of the Father.³⁷⁴⁴ Accordingly He added: "that it may be for a testimony unto you"—one, no doubt, whereby He would testify that He was not destroying the law, but fulfilling it; whereby, too, He would testify that it was He Himself who was foretold as about to undertake³⁷⁴⁵ their sicknesses and infirmities. This very consistent and becoming explanation of "the testimony," that adulator of his own Christ, Marcion seeks to exclude under the cover of mercy and gentleness. For, being both good (such are his words), and knowing, besides, that every man who had been freed from leprosy would be sure to perform the solemnities of the law, therefore He gave this precept. Well, what then? Has He continued in his goodness (that is to say, in his permission of the law) or not? For if he has persevered in his goodness, he will never become a destroyer of the law; nor will he ever be accounted as belonging to another god, because there would not exist that destruction of the law which would constitute his claim to belong to the other god. If, however, he has not continued good, by a subsequent destruction of the law, it is a false testimony which he has since imposed upon them in his cure of the leper; because he has forsaken his goodness, in destroying the law. If, therefore, he was good whilst upholding the law,³⁷⁴⁶ he has now become evil as a destroyer of the law. However, by the support which he gave to the law, he affirmed that the law was good. For no one permits himself in the support of an evil thing. Therefore he is not only bad if he has permitted obedience to a bad law; but even worse still, if he has appeared³⁷⁴⁷ as the destroyer of a good law. So that if he commanded the offering of the gift because he knew that every cured leper would be sure to bring one; he possibly abstained from commanding what he knew would be spontaneously done. In vain, therefore, was his coming down, as if with the intention of destroying



3741 Luke v. 14.

3742 Utpote prophetatæ.

3743 Emaculatum.

3744 [i.e., the Great High Priest whose sacrifice is accepted of the Father, for the sins of the whole world.]

3745 Suscepturus: *to carry or take away.*

3746 Legis indultor.

3747 Advenit.

the law, when he makes concessions to the keepers of the law. And yet,³⁷⁴⁸ because he knew their disposition,³⁷⁴⁹ he ought the more earnestly to have prevented their neglect of the law,³⁷⁵⁰ since he had come for this purpose. Why then did he not keep silent, that man might of his own simple will obey the law? For then might he have seemed to some extent³⁷⁵¹ to have persisted in his patience. But he adds also his own authority increased by the weight of this “testimony.” Of what testimony, I ask,³⁷⁵² if not that of the assertion of the law? Surely it matters not in what way he asserted the law—whether as good, or as supererogatory,³⁷⁵³ or as patient, or as inconstant—provided, Marcion, I drive you from your position.³⁷⁵⁴ Observe,³⁷⁵⁵ he commanded that the law should be fulfilled. In whatever way he commanded it, in the same way might he also have first uttered that sentiment:³⁷⁵⁶ “I came not to destroy the law, but to fulfil it.”³⁷⁵⁷ What business, therefore, had you to erase out of the Gospel that which was quite consistent in it?³⁷⁵⁸ For you have confessed that, in his goodness, he did in act what you deny that he did in word.³⁷⁵⁹ We have therefore good proof that He uttered the word, in the fact that He did the deed; and that you have rather expunged the Lord’s word, than that our (evangelists)³⁷⁶⁰ have inserted it.

3748 Atquin.

3749 Formam.

3750 Ab ea avertendos.

3751 Aliquatenus.

3752 Jam.

3753 Supervacuus.

3754 Gradu.

3755 Ecce.

3756 Sententiam.

3757 [Matt. v. 17.](#)

3758 Quod saluum est.

3759 That is, you retain the passage in St. Luke, which relates the *act* of honouring the law; but you reject that in St. Matthew, which contains Christ’s profession of honouring the law.

3760 Nostros: or, perhaps, “our people,”—that is, the Catholics.

Chapter X.—Further Proofs of the Same Truth in the Same Chapter, from the Healing of the Paralytic, and from the Designation Son of Man Which Jesus Gives Himself. Tertullian Sustains His Argument by Several Quotations from the Prophets.

The sick of the palsy is healed,³⁷⁶¹ and that in public, in the sight of the people. For, says Isaiah, “they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.”³⁷⁶² What glory, and what excellency? “Be strong, ye weak hands, and ye feeble knees.”³⁷⁶³ this refers to the palsy. “Be strong; fear not.”³⁷⁶⁴ *Be strong* is not vainly repeated, nor is *fear not* vainly added; because with the renewal of the limbs there was to be, according to the promise, a restoration also of bodily energies: “Arise, and take up thy couch;” and likewise moral courage³⁷⁶⁵ not to be afraid of those who should say, “Who can forgive sins, but God alone?” So that you have here not only the fulfilment of the prophecy which promised a particular kind of healing, but also of the symptoms which followed the cure. In like manner, you should also recognise Christ in the same prophet as the forgiver of sins. “For,” he says, “He shall remit to many their sins, and shall Himself take away our sins.”³⁷⁶⁶ For in an earlier passage, speaking in the person of the Lord himself, he had said: “Even though your sins be as scarlet, I will make them as white as snow; even though they be like crimson, I will whiten them as wool.”³⁷⁶⁷ In the scarlet colour He indicates the blood of the prophets; in the crimson, that of the Lord, as the brighter. Concerning the forgiveness of sins, Micah also says: “Who is a God like unto Thee? pardoning iniquity, and passing by the transgressions of the remnant of Thine heritage. He retaineth not His anger as a testimony *against them*, because He delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, and will have compassion upon us; He wipeth away our iniquities, and casteth our sins into the depths of the sea.”³⁷⁶⁸ Now, if nothing of this sort had been predicted of Christ, I should find in the Creator examples of such a benignity as would hold out to me the promise of similar affections also in the Son of whom He is the Father. I see how the Ninevites obtained forgiveness of their sins from the Creator³⁷⁶⁹—not to say from Christ, even then, because from the beginning He acted



3761 Luke v. 16–26.

3762 Isa. xxxv. 2.

3763 Isa. xxxv. 3 in an altered form.

3764 Isa. xxxv. 4.

3765 Animi vigorem.

3766 This seems to be Isa. liii. 12, last clause.

3767 Isa. i. 18.

3768 Mic. vii. 18, 19.

3769 Jonah iii. 10.

in the Father's name. I read, too, how that, when David acknowledged his sin against Uriah, the prophet Nathan said unto him, "The Lord hath cancelled³⁷⁷⁰ thy sin, and thou shalt not die;"³⁷⁷¹ how king Ahab in like manner, the husband of Jezebel, guilty of idolatry and of the blood of Naboth, obtained pardon because of his repentance;³⁷⁷² and how Jonathan the son of Saul blotted out by his deprecation the guilt of a violated fast.³⁷⁷³ Why should I recount the frequent restoration of the nation itself after the forgiveness of their sins?—by that God, indeed, who will have mercy rather than sacrifice, and a sinner's repentance rather than his death.³⁷⁷⁴ You will first have to deny that the Creator ever forgave sins; then you must in reason show³⁷⁷⁵ that He never ordained any such prerogative for His Christ; and so you will prove how novel is that boasted³⁷⁷⁶ benevolence of the, of course, novel Christ when you shall have proved that it is neither compatible with³⁷⁷⁷ the Creator nor predicted by the Creator. But whether to remit sins can appertain to one who is said to be unable to retain them, and whether to absolve can belong to him who is incompetent even to condemn, and whether to forgive is suitable to him against whom no offence can be committed, are questions which we have encountered elsewhere,³⁷⁷⁸ when we preferred to drop suggestions³⁷⁷⁹ rather than treat them anew.³⁷⁸⁰ Concerning the Son of man our rule³⁷⁸¹ is a twofold one: that Christ cannot lie, so as to declare Himself the Son of man, if He be not truly so; nor can He be constituted the Son of man, unless He be born of a human parent, either father or mother. And then the discussion will turn on the point, of which human parent He ought to be accounted the son—of the father or the mother? Since He is (begotten) of God the Father, He is not, of course, (the son) of a human father. If He is not of a human father, it follows that He must be (the son) of a human mother. If of a human mother, it is evident that she must be a virgin. For to whom a human father is not ascribed, to his mother a husband will not be reckoned; and then to what mother a husband is not reckoned, the

3770 Circumduxit.

3771 [2 Sam. xii. 13.](#)

3772 [1 Kings xxi. 29.](#)

3773 Resignati jejunii. See [1 Sam. xiv. 43–45.](#)

3774 [Ezek. xxxiii. 11.](#)

3775 Consequens est ut ostendas.

3776 Istam.

3777 Parem.

3778 See book i. chap. xxvi.–xxviii.

3779 Admonere.

3780 Retractare: give a set treatise about them.

3781 Præscriptio.

condition of virginity belongs.³⁷⁸² But if His mother be not a virgin, two fathers will have to be reckoned to Him—a divine and a human one. For she must have a husband, not to be a virgin; and by having a husband, she would cause two fathers—one divine, the other human—to accrue to Him, who would thus be Son both of God and of a man. Such a nativity (if one may call it so)³⁷⁸³ the mythic stories assign to Castor or to Hercules. Now, if this distinction be observed, that is to say, if He be Son of man as born of His mother, because not begotten of a father, and His mother be a virgin, because His father is not human—He will be that Christ whom Isaiah foretold that a virgin should conceive,³⁷⁸⁴ on what principle you, Marcion, can admit Him Son of man, I cannot possibly see. If through a human father, then you deny him to be Son of God; if through a divine one *also*,³⁷⁸⁵ then you make Christ the Hercules of fable; if through a human mother only, then you concede my point; if not through a human father *also*,³⁷⁸⁶ then He is not the son of any man,³⁷⁸⁷ and He must have been guilty of a lie for having declared Himself to be what He was not. One thing alone can help you in your difficulty: boldness on your part either to surname your God as actually the human father of Christ, as Valentinus did³⁷⁸⁸ with his Æon; or else to deny that the Virgin was human, which even Valentinus did not do. What now, if Christ be described³⁷⁸⁹ in Daniel by this very title of “Son of man?” Is not this enough to prove that He is the Christ of prophecy? For if He gives Himself that appellation which was provided in the prophecy for the Christ of the Creator, He undoubtedly offers Himself to be understood as Him to whom (the appellation) was assigned by the prophet. But perhaps³⁷⁹⁰ it can be regarded as a simple identity of names;³⁷⁹¹ and yet we have maintained³⁷⁹² that neither Christ nor Jesus ought to have been called by these names, if they possessed any condition of diversity. But as regards the appellation “Son of man,” in *as* far as it occurs by accident,³⁷⁹³ in *so* far there is a difficulty in its occurrence along with³⁷⁹⁴ a casual identity



3782 To secure *terseness* in the premisses, we are obliged to lengthen out the brief terms of the conclusion, *virgo est*.

3783 Si forte.

3784 [Isa. vii. 14.](#)

3785 Si et Dei.

3786 Si neque patris.

3787 On Marcion's principles, it must be remembered.

3788 Compare T.'s treatise, *Adversus Valentinianos*, chap. xii.

3789 Censetur.

3790 Si forte.

3791 Nominum communio simplex.

3792 Defendimus. See above, book iii. chap. xv. xvi.

3793 Ex accidenti obvenit.

3794 Super.

of names. For it is of pure³⁷⁹⁵ accident, especially when the same cause does not appear³⁷⁹⁶ whereby the identity may be occasioned. And therefore, if Marcion's Christ be also said to be born of man, then he too would receive an identical appellation, and there would be two Sons of man, as also two Christs and two Jesuses. Therefore, since the appellation is the sole right of Him in whom it has a suitable reason,³⁷⁹⁷ if it be claimed for another in whom there is an identity of name, but not of appellation,³⁷⁹⁸ then the identity of name even looks suspicious in him for whom is claimed without reason the identity of appellation. And it follows that He must be believed to be One and the Same, who is found to be the more fit to receive both the name and the appellation; while the other is excluded, who has no right to the appellation, because he has no reason to show for it. Nor will any other be better entitled to both than He who is the earlier, and has had allotted to Him the name of Christ and the appellation of Son of man, even the Jesus of the Creator. It was He who was seen by the king of Babylon in the furnace with His martyrs: "the fourth, who was like the Son of man."³⁷⁹⁹ He also was revealed to Daniel himself expressly as "the Son of man, coming in the clouds of heaven" as a Judge, as also the Scripture shows.³⁸⁰⁰ What I have advanced might have been sufficient concerning the designation in prophecy of the Son of man. But the Scripture offers me further information, even in the interpretation of the Lord Himself. For when the Jews, who looked at Him as merely man, and were not yet sure that He was God also, as being likewise the Son of God, rightly enough said that a man could not forgive sins, but God alone, why did He not, following up their point³⁸⁰¹ about *man*, answer them, that He³⁸⁰² had power to remit sins; inasmuch as, when He mentioned the Son of man, He also named a human being? except it were because He wanted, by help of the very designation "Son of man" from the book of Daniel, so to induce them to reflect³⁸⁰³ as to show them that He who remitted sins was God and man—that only Son of man, indeed, in the prophecy of Daniel, who had obtained the power of judging, and thereby, of course, of forgiving sins likewise (for He who judges also absolves); so that, when once that objection of theirs³⁸⁰⁴

3795 Proprio.

3796 Non convenit.

3797 Causam.

3798 The context explains the difference between *nomen* and *appellatio*. The former refers to the name *Jesus* or *Christ*, the latter to the designation *Son of man*.

3799 Dan. iii. 25.

3800 Dan. vii. 13.

3801 Secundum intentionem eorum.

3802 Eum: that is, *man*.

3803 Repercutere.

3804 Scandalo isto.

was shattered to pieces by their recollection of Scripture, they might the more easily acknowledge Him to be the Son of man Himself by His own actual forgiveness of sins. I make one more observation,³⁸⁰⁵ how that He has nowhere as yet professed Himself to be the Son of God—but for the first time in this passage, in which for the first time He has remitted sins; that is, in which for the first time He has used His function of *judgment*, by the absolution. All that the opposite side has to allege in argument against these things, (I beg you) carefully weigh³⁸⁰⁶ what it amounts to. For it must needs strain itself to such a pitch of infatuation as, on the one hand, to maintain that (their Christ) is also Son of man, in order to save Him from the charge of falsehood; and, on the other hand, to deny that He was born of woman, lest they grant that He was the Virgin's son. Since, however, the divine authority and the nature of the case, and common sense, do not admit this insane position of the heretics, we have here the opportunity of putting in a veto³⁸⁰⁷ in the briefest possible terms, *on the substance of Christ's body*, against Marcion's phantoms. Since He is born of man, being the Son of man. He is body derived from body.³⁸⁰⁸ You may, I assure you,³⁸⁰⁹ more easily find a man born without a heart or without brains, like Marcion himself, than without a body, like Marcion's Christ. And let this be the limit to your examination of the heart, or, at any rate, the brains of the heretic of Pontus.³⁸¹⁰



3805 Denique.

3806 Dispice.

3807 Interpellandi.

3808 Corpus ex corpore.

3809 Plane: introducing the sharp irony.

3810 This is perhaps the best sense of T.'s sarcasm: "Atque adeo (*thus far*) inspice cor Pontici aut (*or else*) cerebrum."

Chapter XI.—The Call of Levi the Publican. Christ in Relation to the Baptist. Christ as the Bridegroom. The Parable of the Old Wine and the New. Arguments Connecting Christ with the Creator.

The publican who was chosen by the Lord,³⁸¹¹ he adduces for a proof that he was chosen as a stranger to the law and uninitiated in³⁸¹² Judaism, by one who was an adversary to the law. The case of Peter escaped his memory, who, although he was a man of the law, was not only chosen by the Lord, but also obtained the testimony of possessing knowledge which was given to him by the Father.³⁸¹³ He had nowhere read of Christ's being foretold as the light, and hope, and expectation of the Gentiles! *He*, however, rather spoke of the Jews in a favourable light, when he said, "The whole needed not a physician, but they that are sick."³⁸¹⁴ For since by "those that are sick" he meant that the heathens and publicans should be understood, whom he was choosing, he affirmed of the Jews that they were "whole" for whom he said that a physician was not necessary. This being the case, he makes a mistake in coming down³⁸¹⁵ to destroy the law, as if for the remedy of a diseased condition. because they who were living under it were "whole," and "not in want of a physician." How, moreover, does it happen that he proposed the similitude of a *physician*, if he did not verify it? For, just as nobody uses a physician for healthy persons, so will no one do so for strangers, in so far as he is one of Marcion's god-made men,³⁸¹⁶ having to himself both a creator and preserver, and a specially good physician, in his Christ. This much the comparison predetermines, that a physician is more usually furnished by him to whom the sick people belong. Whence, too, does John come upon the scene? Christ, suddenly; and just as suddenly, John!³⁸¹⁷ After this fashion occur all things in Marcion's system. They have their own special and plenary course³⁸¹⁸ in the Creator's dispensation. Of John, however, what else I have to say will be found in another passage.³⁸¹⁹ To the several points which now come before us an answer must be given. This, then, I will take care to do³⁸²⁰—demonstrate that, reciprocally, John is suitable to Christ, and Christ to John, the latter, of course, as a prophet of the Creator,

3811 He means Levi or St. Matthew; see [Luke v. 27–39](#).

3812 Profanum.

3813 [Matt. xvi. 17](#).

3814 [Luke v. 31](#).

3815 Male descendit.

3816 Homo a deo Marcionis.

3817 See chap. vii. of this book, and chap. ii. of book. iii.

3818 Plenum ordinem.

3819 See below, chap. xviii.

3820 Tuebor.

just as the former is the Creator's Christ; and so the heretic may blush at frustrating, to his own frustration, the mission of John *the Baptist*. For if there had been no ministry of John at all—"the voice," as Isaiah calls him, "of one crying in the wilderness," and the preparer of the ways of the Lord by denunciation and recommendation of repentance; if, too, he had not baptized (Christ) Himself³⁸²¹ along with others, nobody could have challenged the disciples of Christ, as they ate and drank, to a comparison with the disciples of John, who were constantly fasting and praying; because, if there existed any diversity³⁸²² between Christ and John, and their followers respectively, no exact comparison would be possible, nor would there be a single point where it could be challenged. For nobody would feel surprise, and nobody would be perplexed, although there should arise rival predictions of a diverse deity, which should also mutually differ about modes of conduct,³⁸²³ having a prior difference about the authorities³⁸²⁴ upon which they were based. Therefore Christ belonged to John, and John to Christ; while both belonged to the Creator, and both were of the law and the prophets, preachers and masters. Else Christ would have rejected the discipline of John, as of the rival god, and would also have defended the disciples, as very properly pursuing a different walk, because consecrated to the service of another and contrary deity. But as it is, while modestly³⁸²⁵ giving a reason why "the children of the bridegroom are unable to fast during the time the bridegroom is with them," but promising that "they should afterwards fast, when the bridegroom was taken away from them,"³⁸²⁶ He neither defended the disciples, (but rather excused them, as if they had not been blamed without some reason), nor rejected the discipline of John, but rather allowed³⁸²⁷ it, referring it to the time of John, although destining it for His own time. Otherwise His purpose would have been to reject it,³⁸²⁸ and to defend its opponents, if He had not Himself already belonged to it as then in force. I hold also that it is my Christ who is meant by the bridegroom, of whom the psalm says: "He is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and His return is back to the end of it again."³⁸²⁹ By the mouth of Isaiah He also says exultingly of the Father: "Let my soul rejoice in the Lord; for He hath clothed me



3821 Ipsum.

3822 Marcion's *diversitas* implied an utter incompatibility between John and Christ; for it assigned John to the Creator, from whom it took Christ away.

3823 De disciplinis: or, "about discipleships."

3824 De auctoritatibus; or, "about the authors thereof."

3825 Humiliter.

3826 [Luke v. 34, 35.](#)

3827 Concessit.

3828 Rejecturus alioquin.

3829 [Ps. xix. 5, 6.](#)

with the garment of salvation and with the tunic of joy, as a bridegroom. He hath put a mitre round about my head, as a bride.”³⁸³⁰ To Himself likewise He appropriates³⁸³¹ the church, concerning which the same³⁸³² Spirit says to Him: “Thou shalt clothe Thee with them all, as with a bridal ornament.”³⁸³³ This spouse Christ invites home to Himself also by Solomon from the call of the Gentiles, because you read: “Come with me from Lebanon, my spouse.”³⁸³⁴ He elegantly makes mention of Lebanon (the mountain, of course) because it stands for the name of frankincense with the Greeks;³⁸³⁵ for it was from idolatry that He betrothed Himself the church. Deny now, Marcion, your utter madness, (if you can)! Behold, you impugn even the law of your god. He unites not in the nuptial bond, nor, when contracted, does he allow it; no one does he baptize but a *cælebs* or a eunuch; until death or divorce does he reserve baptism.³⁸³⁶ Wherefore, then, do you make his Christ a bridegroom? This is the designation of Him who united man and woman, not of him who separated them. You have erred also in that declaration of Christ, wherein He seems to make a difference between things new and old. You are inflated about the old bottles, and brain-muddled with the new wine; and therefore to the old (that is to say, to the prior) gospel you have sewed on the patch of your new-fangled heresy. I should like to know in what respect the Creator is inconsistent with Himself.³⁸³⁷ When by Jeremiah He gave this precept, “Break up for yourselves new pastures,”³⁸³⁸ does He not turn away from the old state of things? And when by Isaiah He proclaims how “old things were passed away; and, behold, all things, which I am making, are new,”³⁸³⁹ does He not advert to a new state of things? We have generally been of opinion³⁸⁴⁰ that the destination of the former state of things was rather promised by the Creator, and exhibited in reality by Christ, only under the authority of one and the same God, to whom appertain both the old things and the new. For new wine is not put into old bottles, except by one who has the old bottles; nor does anybody put a new piece

3830 [Isa. lxi. 10.](#)

3831 Deputat.

3832 The same, which spake again by Isaiah.

3833 [Isa. xlix. 18.](#)

3834 [Song of Sol. iv. 8.](#)

3835 There is also in Hebrew an affinity between **לַבְנָדָה**, “frankincense,” and **לְבָנוֹן**, “Lebanon.” [Note this strange but reiterated and emphatic identification of incense with *idolatry*. In the Gentile church it was thoroughly identified with Paganism.]

3836 See also book i. chap. xxix. [On this reservation of Baptism see Elucidation II.]

3837 Alter.

3838 [Jer. iv. 3.](#)

3839 His reading of (probably) [Isa. xliii. 19](#); [comp. 2 Cor. v. 17.](#)

3840 Olim statuimus.

to an old garment, unless the old garment be forthcoming to him. That person only³⁸⁴¹ does not do a thing when it is not to be done, who has the materials wherewithal to do it if it were to be done. And therefore, since His object in making the comparison was to show that He was separating the new condition³⁸⁴² of the gospel from the old state³⁸⁴³ of the law, He proved that that³⁸⁴⁴ from which He was separating His own³⁸⁴⁵ ought not to have been branded³⁸⁴⁶ as a separation³⁸⁴⁷ of things which were alien to each other; for nobody ever unites his own things with things that are alien to them,³⁸⁴⁸ in order that he may afterwards be able to separate them from the alien things. A separation is possible by help of the conjunction through which it is made. Accordingly, the things which He separated He also proved to have been once one; as they would have remained, were it not for His separation. But still we make this concession, that there is a separation, by reformation, by amplification,³⁸⁴⁹ by progress; just as the fruit is separated from the seed, although the fruit comes from the seed. So likewise the gospel is separated from the law, whilst it advances³⁸⁵⁰ from the law—a different thing³⁸⁵¹ from it, but not an alien one; diverse, but not contrary. Nor in Christ do we even find any novel form of discourse. Whether He proposes similitudes or refute questions, it comes from the seventy-seventh Psalm. “I will open,” says He, “my mouth in a parable” (that is, in a similitude); “I will utter *dark* problems” (that is, I will set forth questions).³⁸⁵² If you should wish to prove that a man belonged to another race, no doubt you would fetch your proof from the idiom of his language.



3841 Ille.

3842 Novitas.

3843 Vetustas.

3844 That is, “the oldness of the law.”

3845 That is, “the newness of the gospel.”

3846 Notandam.

3847 Separatione. The more general reading is *separationem*.

3848 Alienis: i.e., “things not his own.”

3849 Amplitudinem.

3850 Provehitur, “is developed.”

3851 Aliud.

3852 See [Ps. lxxviii. 2.](#)

Chapter XII.—Christ's Authority Over the Sabbath. As Its Lord He Recalled It from Pharisaic Neglect to the Original Purpose of Its Institution by the Creator the Case of the Disciples Who Plucked the Ears of Corn on the Sabbath. The Withered Hand Healed on the Sabbath.

Concerning the Sabbath also I have this to premise, that this question could not have arisen, if Christ did not publicly proclaim³⁸⁵³ the Lord of the Sabbath. Nor could there be any discussion about His annulling³⁸⁵⁴ the Sabbath, if He had a right³⁸⁵⁵ to annul it. Moreover, He would have the right, if He belonged to the rival god; nor would it cause surprise to any one that He did what it was right for Him to do. Men's astonishment therefore arose from their opinion that it was improper for Him to proclaim the Creator to be God and yet to impugn His Sabbath. Now, that we may decide these several points first, lest we should be renewing them at every turn to meet each argument of our adversary which rests on some novel institution³⁸⁵⁶ of Christ, let this stand as a settled point, that discussion concerning the novel character of each institution ensued on this account, because as nothing was as yet advanced *by Christ* touching any new deity, so discussion thereon was inadmissible; nor could it be retorted, that from the very novelty of each several institution another deity was clearly enough demonstrated by Christ, inasmuch as it was plain that novelty was not in itself a characteristic to be wondered at in Christ, because it had been foretold by the Creator. And it would have been, of course, but right that a new³⁸⁵⁷ god should first be expounded, and his discipline be introduced afterwards; because it would be the god that would impart authority to the discipline, and not the discipline to the god; except that (to be sure) it has happened that Marcion acquired his very perverse opinions not from a master, but his master from his opinion! All other points respecting the Sabbath I thus rule. If Christ interfered with³⁸⁵⁸ the Sabbath, He simply acted after the Creator's example; inasmuch as in the siege of the city of Jericho the carrying around the walls of the ark of the covenant for eight days running, and therefore on a Sabbath-day, actually³⁸⁵⁹ annulled the Sabbath, by the Creator's command—according to the opinion of those who think this of Christ *in this passage of St. Luke*, in their ignorance that neither Christ nor the Creator violated the Sabbath, as we shall by and by show. And yet the Sabbath was actually then

3853 Circumferret.

3854 Cur destrueret.

3855 Deberet.

3856 Institutione: or, *teaching*, perhaps.

3857 Alium.

3858 Intervertit.

3859 Operatione.

broken³⁸⁶⁰ by Joshua,³⁸⁶¹ so that the present charge might be alleged also against Christ. But even if, as being not the Christ of the Jews, He displayed a hatred against the Jews' most solemn day, He was only professedly following³⁸⁶² the Creator, as being His Christ, in this very hatred of the Sabbath; for He exclaims by the mouth of Isaiah: "Your new moons and your Sabbaths my soul hateth."³⁸⁶³ Now, in whatever sense these words were spoken, we know that an abrupt defence must, in a subject of this sort, be used in answer to an abrupt challenge. I shall now transfer the discussion to the very matter in which the teaching of Christ seemed to annul the Sabbath. The disciples had been hungry; on that *the Sabbath* day they had plucked some ears and rubbed them in their hands; by thus preparing their food, they had violated the holy day. Christ excuses them, and became their accomplice in breaking the Sabbath. The Pharisees bring the charge against Him. Marcion sophistically interprets the stages of the controversy (if I may call in the aid of the truth of my Lord to ridicule his arts), both in the scriptural record and in *Christ's* purpose.³⁸⁶⁴ For from the Creator's Scripture, and from the purpose of Christ, there is derived a colourable precedent³⁸⁶⁵—as from the example of David, when he went into the temple on the Sabbath, and provided food by boldly breaking up the shew-bread.³⁸⁶⁶ Even he remembered that this privilege (I mean the dispensation from fasting) was allowed to the Sabbath from the very beginning, when the Sabbath-day itself was instituted. For although the Creator had forbidden that the manna should be gathered for two days, He yet permitted it on the one occasion only of the day before the Sabbath, in order that the yesterday's provision of food might free from fasting the feast of the following Sabbath-day. Good reason, therefore, had the Lord for pursuing the same principle in the annulling of the Sabbath (since that is the word which men will use); good reason, too, for expressing the Creator's will,³⁸⁶⁷ when He bestowed the privilege of not fasting on the Sabbath-day. In short, He would have then and there³⁸⁶⁸ put an end to the Sabbath, nay, to the Creator Himself, if He had commanded His disciples



3860 Concussus est sabbatum.

3861 Per Jesum.

3862 Professus...sequebatur.

3863 [Isa. i. 14.](#)

3864 This obscure passage runs thus in the original: "Marcion captat status controversiæ (ut aliquid ludam cum mei Domini veritate), scripti et voluntatis." *Status* is a technical word in rhetoric. "Est quæstio quæ ex prima causarum conflictione nascitur." See Cicero, *Topic. c. 25, Part. c. 29*; and Quintilian, *Instit. Rhetor. iii. 6.* (Oehler).

3865 Sumitur color.

3866 [Luke vi. 1-4; 1 Sam. xxi. 2-6.](#)

3867 Affectum.

3868 Tunc demum.

to fast on the Sabbath-day, contrary to the intention³⁸⁶⁹ of the Scripture and of the Creator's will. But because He did not directly defend³⁸⁷⁰ His disciples, but excuses them; because He interposes human want, as if deprecating censure; because He maintains the honour of the Sabbath as a day which is to be free from gloom rather than from work;³⁸⁷¹ because he puts David and his companions on a level with His own disciples in their fault and their extenuation; because He is pleased to endorse³⁸⁷² the Creator's indulgence:³⁸⁷³ because He is Himself good according to *His* example—is He therefore alien from the Creator? Then the Pharisees watch whether He would heal on the Sabbath-day,³⁸⁷⁴ that they might accuse Him—surely as a violator of the Sabbath, not as the propounder of a new god; for perhaps I might be content with insisting on all occasions on this one point, that another Christ³⁸⁷⁵ is nowhere proclaimed. The Pharisees, however, were in utter error concerning the law of the Sabbath, not observing that its terms were conditional, when it enjoined rest from labour, making certain distinctions of labour. For when it says of the Sabbath-day, “In it thou shalt not do any work of thine,”³⁸⁷⁶ by the word *thine*³⁸⁷⁷ it restricts the prohibition to human work—which every one performs in his own employment or business—and not to divine work. Now the work of healing or preserving is not proper to man, but to God. So again, in the law it says, “Thou shalt not do any manner of work in it,”³⁸⁷⁸ except what is to be done for any soul,³⁸⁷⁹ that is to say, in the matter of delivering the soul;³⁸⁸⁰ because what is God's work may be done by human agency for the salvation of the soul. By God, however, would that be done which the man Christ was to do, for He was likewise God.³⁸⁸¹ Wishing,

3869 Statum.

3870 Non constanter tuebatur.

3871 Non contristandi quam vacandi.

3872 [This adoption of an *Americanism* is worthy of passing notice.]

3873 Placet illi quia Creator indulsit.

3874 [Luke vi. 7.](#)

3875 That is, the Christ of another God.

3876 [Ex. xx. 16.](#)

3877 It is impossible to say where Tertullian got this reading. Perhaps his LXX. copy might have had (in [Ex. xx. 10](#)): Οὐ ποιήσεις ἐν αὐτῇ πᾶν ἔργον σου, instead of σου; every clause ending in σου, which follows in that verse. No critical authority, however, now known warrants such a reading. [It is probably based inferentially on [verse 9](#), “all *thy* work.”]

3878 [Ex. xii. 16.](#)

3879 The LXX. of the latter clause of [Ex. xii. 16](#) thus runs: πλὴν ὅσα ποιηθήσεται πάση ψυχῇ. Tertullian probably got this reading from this clause, although the Hebrew is to this effect: “Save that which every man (or, *every soul*) must eat,” which the Vulgate renders: “Exceptis his, quæ ad vescendum pertinent.”

3880 Liberandæ animæ: perhaps *saving life*.

3881 In salutem animæ: or, for saving life.

therefore, to initiate them into this meaning of the law by the restoration of the withered hand, He requires, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath-days to do good, or not? to save life, or to destroy it?”³⁸⁸² In order that He might, whilst allowing that amount of work which He was about to perform for a soul,³⁸⁸³ remind them what works the law of the Sabbath forbade—even human works; and what it enjoined—even divine works, which might be done for the benefit of any soul,³⁸⁸⁴ He was called “Lord of the Sabbath,”³⁸⁸⁵ because He maintained³⁸⁸⁶ the Sabbath as His own institution. Now, even if He had annulled the Sabbath, He would have had the right to do so,³⁸⁸⁷ as being its Lord, (and) still more as He who instituted it. But He did not utterly destroy it, although its Lord, in order that it might henceforth be plain that the Sabbath was not broken³⁸⁸⁸ by the Creator, even at the time when the ark was carried around Jericho. For that was really³⁸⁸⁹ God’s work, which He commanded Himself, and which He had ordered for the sake of the lives of His servants when exposed to the perils of war. Now, although He has in a certain place expressed an aversion of Sabbaths, by calling them *your Sabbaths*,³⁸⁹⁰ reckoning them as men’s Sabbaths, not His own, because they were celebrated without the fear of God by a people full of iniquities, and loving God “with the lip, not the heart,”³⁸⁹¹ He has yet put His own Sabbaths (those, that is, which were kept according to His prescription) in a different position; for by the same prophet, in a later passage,³⁸⁹² He declared them to be “true, and delightful, and inviolable.” Thus Christ did not at all rescind the Sabbath: He kept the law thereof, and both in the former case did a work which was beneficial to the life of His disciples, for He indulged them with the relief of food when they were hungry, and in the present instance cured the withered hand; in each case intimating by facts, “I came not to destroy, the law,



3882 [Luke vi. 9.](#)

3883 Pro anima: or, for a life.

3884 Animæ omni: or, any life.

3885 [Luke vi. 5.](#)

3886 Tuebatur.

3887 Merito.

3888 Destructum. We have, as has been most convenient, rendered this word by *annul, destroy, break.*

3889 Et.

3890 [Isa. i. 13, 14.](#)

3891 [Isa. xxix. 13.](#)

3892 [Isa. lviii. 13 and lvi. 2.](#)

but to fulfil it,”³⁸⁹³ although Marcion has gagged³⁸⁹⁴ His mouth by this word.³⁸⁹⁵ For even in the case before us He fulfilled the law, while interpreting its condition; *moreover*, He exhibits in a clear light the different kinds of work, while doing what the law excepts from the sacredness of the Sabbath³⁸⁹⁶ *and* while imparting to the Sabbath-day itself, which from the beginning had been consecrated by the benediction of the Father, an additional sanctity by His own beneficent action. For He furnished to this day divine safeguards,³⁸⁹⁷—a course which³⁸⁹⁸ His adversary would have pursued for some other days, to avoid honouring the Creator’s Sabbath, and restoring to the Sabbath the works which were proper for it. Since, in like manner, the prophet Elisha on this day restored to life the dead son of the Shunammite woman,³⁸⁹⁹ you see, O Pharisee, and you too, O Marcion, how that it was *proper employment* for the Creator’s Sabbaths of old³⁹⁰⁰ to do good, to save life, not to destroy it; how that Christ introduced nothing new, which was not after the example,³⁹⁰¹ the gentleness, the mercy, and the prediction also of the Creator. For in this very example He fulfils³⁹⁰² the prophetic announcement of a specific healing: “The weak hands are strengthened,” as were also “the feeble knees”³⁹⁰³ in the sick of the palsy.

3893 [Matt. v. 17.](#)

3894 Obstruxit.

3895 “Destroy”...It was hardly necessary for Oehler to paraphrase our author’s characteristically strong sentence by, “since Marcion *thought that he had gagged*,” etc.

3896 In other words, “permits to be done on the Sabbath.”

3897 Præsidia.

3898 Quod, not *quæ*, as if in apposition with *præsidia*.

3899 See [2 Kings iv. 23.](#)

3900 Olim.

3901 Forma.

3902 Repræsentat.

3903 [Isa. xxxv. 3.](#)

Chapter XIII.—Christ's Connection with the Creator Shown. Many Quotations Out of the Old Testament Prophetically Bear on Certain Events of the Life of Jesus—Such as His Ascent to Praying on the Mountain; His Selection of Twelve Apostles; His Changing Simon's Name to Peter, and Gentiles from Tyre and Sidon Resorting to Him.

Surely to Sion He brings good tidings, and to Jerusalem peace and all blessings; He goes up into a mountain, and there spends a night in prayer,³⁹⁰⁴ and He is indeed heard by the Father. Accordingly turn over the prophets, and learn therefrom His entire course.³⁹⁰⁵ “Into the high mountain,” says Isaiah, “get Thee up, who bringest good tidings to Sion; lift up Thy voice with strength, who bringest good tidings to Jerusalem.”³⁹⁰⁶ “They were mightily³⁹⁰⁷ astonished at His doctrine; for He was teaching as one who had power.”³⁹⁰⁸ And again: “Therefore, my people shall know my name in that day.” What name *does the prophet mean*, but Christ's? “That I am He that doth speak—even I.”³⁹⁰⁹ For it was He who used to speak in the prophets—the Word, the Creator's Son. “I am present, while it is the hour, upon the mountains, as one that bringeth glad tidings of peace, as one that publisheth good tidings of good.”³⁹¹⁰ So one of the twelve (minor prophets), Nahum: “For behold upon the mountain the swift feet of Him that bringeth glad tidings of peace.”³⁹¹¹ Moreover, concerning the voice of His prayer to the Father by night, the psalm manifestly says: “O my God, I will cry in the day-time, and Thou shalt hear; and in the night season, and it shall not be in vain to me.”³⁹¹² In another passage touching the same voice and place, the psalm says: “I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain.”³⁹¹³ You have a representation of the name; you have the action of the Evangelizer; you have a mountain for the site; and the night as the time; and the sound of a voice; and the audience of the Father: you have, (in short,) the Christ of the prophets. But why was it that He chose *twelve* apostles,³⁹¹⁴ and not some other number? In truth,³⁹¹⁵ I might from this very point

3904 [Luke vi. 12.](#)

3905 [Ordinem.](#)

3906 [Isa. xl. 9.](#)

3907 [In vigore.](#) Or this phrase may qualify the noun thus: “They were astonished at His doctrine, *in its might.*”

3908 [Luke iv. 32.](#)

3909 [Isa. lii. 6.](#)

3910 [Our author's reading of Isa. lii. 7.](#)

3911 [Nahum i. 15.](#)

3912 [Ps. xxii. 2.](#)

3913 [Ps. iii. 4.](#)

3914 [Luke vi. 13–19.](#)

3915 [Næ.](#)

conclude³⁹¹⁶ of my Christ, that He was foretold not only by the words of prophets, but by the indications of facts. For of this number I find figurative hints up and down the Creator's dispensation³⁹¹⁷ in the twelve springs of Elim;³⁹¹⁸ in the twelve gems of Aaron's priestly vestment;³⁹¹⁹ and in the twelve stones appointed by Joshua to be taken out of the Jordan, and set up for the ark of the covenant. Now, the same number of apostles was thus portended, as if they were to be fountains and rivers which should water the Gentile world, which was formerly dry and destitute of knowledge (as He says by Isaiah: "I will put streams in the unwatered ground"³⁹²⁰); as if they were to be gems to shed lustre upon the church's sacred robe, which Christ, the High Priest of the Father, puts on; as if, also, they were to be stones massive in their faith, which the true Joshua took out of the laver of the Jordan, and placed in the sanctuary of His covenant. What equally good defence of such a number has Marcion's Christ to show? It is impossible that anything can be shown to have been done by him unconnectedly,³⁹²¹ which cannot be shown to have been done by my Christ in connection (with preceding types).³⁹²² To him will appertain the event³⁹²³ in whom is discovered the preparation for the same.³⁹²⁴ Again, He changes the name of Simon to Peter,³⁹²⁵ inasmuch as the Creator also altered the names of Abram, and Sarai, and Oshea, by calling the latter Joshua, and adding a syllable to each of the former. But why *Peter*? If it was because of the vigour of his faith, there were many solid materials which might lend a name from their strength. Was it because Christ was both a rock and a stone? For we read of His being placed "for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence."³⁹²⁶ I omit the rest of the passage.³⁹²⁷ Therefore He would fain³⁹²⁸ impart to the dearest of His disciples a name which was suggested by one of His own especial designations in figure; because it was, I suppose, more peculiarly fit than a name which might have been derived from no figurative description of



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- 3916 Interpretari.
3917 Apud creatorem.
3918 Num. xxxiii. 9.
3919 Ex. xxviii. 13–21.
3920 Isa. xliii. 20.
3921 Simpliciter: i.e., *simply* or without relation to any types or prophecies.
3922 Non simpliciter.
3923 Res.
3924 Rei præparatura.
3925 Luke vi. 14. [Elucidation III.]
3926 Isa. viii. 14; Rom. ix. 33; 1 Pet. ii. 8.
3927 Cætera.
3928 Affectavit.

Himself.³⁹²⁹ There come to Him from Tyre, and from other districts even, a transmarine multitude. This fact the psalm had in view: “And behold tribes of foreign people, and Tyre, and the people of the Ethiopians; they were there. Sion is my mother, shall a man say; and in her was born a man” (forasmuch as the God-man was born), and He built her by the Father’s will; that you may know how Gentiles then flocked to Him, because He was born the God-man who was to build the church according to the Father’s will—even of other races also.³⁹³⁰ So says Isaiah too: “Behold, these come from far; and these from the north and from the west;³⁹³¹ and these from the land of the Persians.”³⁹³² Concerning whom He says again: “Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold, all these have gathered themselves together.”³⁹³³ And yet again: “Thou seest these unknown and strange ones; and thou wilt say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these? But who hath brought me up these? And these, where have they been?”³⁹³⁴ Will such a Christ not be (the Christ) of the prophets? And what will be the Christ of the Marcionites? Since perversion of truth is their pleasure, he could not be (the Christ) of the prophets.

3929 De non suis; opposed to the *de figuris suis peculiariter*. [St. Peter was not the *dearest* of the Apostles though he was the *foremost*.]

3930 Ps. lxxxvii. 4, 5, according to the Septuagint.

3931 Mari.

3932 Isa. xlix. 12.

3933 Isa. xlix. 18.

3934 Isa. xlix. 21.

Chapter XIV.—Christ's Sermon on the Mount. In Manner and Contents It So Resembles the Creator's Dispensational Words and Deeds. It Suggests Therefore the Conclusion that Jesus is the Creator's Christ. The Beatitudes.

I now come to those ordinary precepts of His, by means of which He adapts the peculiarity³⁹³⁵ of His doctrine to what I may call His official proclamation as the Christ.³⁹³⁶ "Blessed are the needy" (for no less than this is required for interpreting the word in the Greek,³⁹³⁷ "because theirs is the kingdom of heaven."³⁹³⁸ Now this very fact, that He begins with beatitudes, is characteristic of the Creator, who used no other voice than that of blessing either in the first fiat or the final dedication of the universe: for "my heart," says He, "hath indited a very good word."³⁹³⁹ This will be that "very good word" of blessing which is admitted to be the initiating principle of the New Testament, after the example of the Old. What is there, then, to wonder at, if He entered *on His ministry* with the very attributes³⁹⁴⁰ of the Creator, who ever in language of the same sort loved, consoled, protected, *and* avenged the beggar, and the poor, and the humble, and the widow, and the orphan? So that you may believe this private bounty as it were of Christ to be a rivulet streaming from the springs of salvation. Indeed, I hardly know which way to turn amidst so vast a wealth of *good* words like these; as if I were in a forest, or a meadow, or an orchard of apples. I must therefore look out for such matter as chance may present to me.³⁹⁴¹

In the psalm he exclaims: "Defend the fatherless and the needy; do justice to the humble and the poor; deliver the poor, and rid the needy out of the hand of the wicked."³⁹⁴² Similarly in the seventy-first Psalm: "In righteousness shall He judge the needy amongst the people, and shall save the children of the poor."³⁹⁴³ And in the following words he says of Christ: "All nations shall serve Him."³⁹⁴⁴ Now David only reigned over the Jewish nation, so that



3935 Proprietatem.

3936 The original runs thus: "Venio nunc ad ordinarias sententias ejus, per quas proprietatem doctrinæ suæ inducit ad edictum, ut ita dixerim, Christi." There is here an allusion to the *edict* of the Roman prætor, that is, his *public announcement*, in which he states (when entering on his office) the rules by which he will be guided in the administration of the same (see White and Riddle, *Latin Dict. s. v. Edictum*).

3937 οί πτωχοί, not πένητες

3938 Luke vi. 20.

3939 Ps. xlv. 1. [And see Vol. I. p. 213, *supra*.]

3940 Affectibus.

3941 Prout incidit.

3942 Ps. lxxxii. 3, 4.

3943 Ps. lxxii. 4.

3944 Ps. lxxii. 11.

nobody can suppose that this was spoken of David; whereas *He* had taken upon Himself the condition of the poor, and such as were oppressed with want, “Because He should deliver the needy out of the hand of the mighty man; He shall spare the needy and the poor, and shall deliver the souls of the poor. From usury and injustice shall He redeem their souls, and in His sight shall their name be honoured.”³⁹⁴⁵ Again: “The wicked shall be turned into hell, even all the nations that forget God; because the needy shall not always be forgotten; the endurance of the poor shall not perish for ever.”³⁹⁴⁶ Again: “Who is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high, and yet looketh on the humble things that are in heaven and on earth!—who raiseth up the needy from off the ground, and out of the dunghill exalteth the poor; that He may set him with the princes of His people,”³⁹⁴⁷ that is, in His own kingdom. And likewise earlier, in the book of Kings,³⁹⁴⁸ Hannah the mother of Samuel gives glory to God in these words: “He raiseth the poor man from the ground, and the beggar, that He may set him amongst the princes of His people (that is, in His own kingdom), and on thrones of glory” (even royal ones).³⁹⁴⁹ And by Isaiah how He inveighs against the oppressors of the needy! “What mean ye that ye set fire to my vineyard, and that the spoil of the poor is in your houses? Wherefore do ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the face of the needy?”³⁹⁵⁰ And again: “Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees; for in their decrees they decree wickedness, turning aside the needy from judgment, and taking away their rights from the poor of my people.”³⁹⁵¹ These righteous judgments He requires for the fatherless also, and the widows, as well as for consolation³⁹⁵² to the very needy themselves. “Do justice to the fatherless, and deal justly with the widow; and come, let us be reconciled,”³⁹⁵³ saith the Lord.”³⁹⁵⁴ To him, for whom in every stage of lowliness there is provided so much of the Creator’s compassionate regard, shall be given that kingdom also which is promised by Christ, to whose merciful compassion belong, and for a great while have belonged,³⁹⁵⁵ those to whom the promise is made. For even if you suppose that the promises of the Creator were earthly, but that Christ’s are heavenly, it is quite clear that heaven has

3945 Ps. lxxii. 12, 13, 14.

3946 Ps. ix. 17, 18.

3947 Ps. cxiii. 5–8.

3948 The books of “Samuel” were also called the books of “Kings.”

3949 1 Sam. ii. 8.

3950 Isa. iii. 14, 15.

3951 Isa. x. 1, 2.

3952 Solatii.

3953 Tertullian seems to have read διαλλαχθῶμεν instead of διαλεχθῶμεν, *let us reason together*, in his LXX.

3954 Isa. i. 17, 18.

3955 Jamdudum pertinent.

been as yet the property of no other God whatever, than Him who owns the earth also; quite clear that the Creator has given even the lesser promises (of earthly blessing), in order that I may more readily believe Him concerning His greater promises (of heavenly blessings) also, than (Marcion's god), who has never given proof of his liberality by any preceding bestowal of minor blessings. "Blessed are they that hunger, for they shall be filled."³⁹⁵⁶ I might connect this clause with the former one, because none but the poor and needy suffer hunger, if the Creator had not specially designed that the promise of a similar blessing should serve as a preparation for the gospel, that so men might know it to be His.³⁹⁵⁷ For thus does He say, by Isaiah, concerning those whom He was about to call from the ends of the earth—that is, the Gentiles: "Behold, they shall come swiftly with speed:"³⁹⁵⁸ *swiftly*, because hastening towards the fulness of the times; *with speed*, because unclogged by the weights of the ancient law. They shall neither hunger nor thirst. Therefore *they shall be filled*,—a promise which is made to none but those who hunger and thirst. And again He says: "Behold, my servants shall be filled, but ye shall be hungry; behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty."³⁹⁵⁹ As for these oppositions, we shall see whether they are not premonitors of Christ.³⁹⁶⁰ Meanwhile the promise of fulness to the hungry is a provision of God the Creator. "Blessed are they that weep, for they shall laugh."³⁹⁶¹ Turn again to the passage of Isaiah: "Behold, my servants shall exult with joy, but ye shall be ashamed; behold, my servants shall be glad, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart."³⁹⁶² And recognise these oppositions also in the dispensation of Christ. Surely gladness and joyous exultation is promised to those who are in an opposite condition—to the sorrowful, and sad, and anxious. Just as it is said in the 125th Psalm: "They who sow in tears shall reap in joy."³⁹⁶³ Moreover, laughter is as much an accessory to the exulting and glad, as weeping is to the sorrowful and grieving. Therefore the Creator, in foretelling matters for laughter and tears, was the first who said that those who mourned should laugh. Accordingly, He who began (His course) with consolation for the poor, and the humble, and the hungry, and the weeping, was at once eager³⁹⁶⁴ to represent Himself as Him whom He had pointed out by the mouth of Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach good

3956 [Luke vi. 21.](#)

3957 In evangelii scilicet sui præstructionem.

3958 [Isa. v. 26.](#)

3959 [Isa. lxxv. 13.](#)

3960 An Christo præministrentur.

3961 [Luke vi. 21.](#)

3962 [Isa. lxxv. 13, 14.](#)

3963 [Ps. cxxvi. 5.](#)

3964 Gestivit.

tidings unto the poor.”³⁹⁶⁵ “Blessed are the needy, because theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”³⁹⁶⁶ “He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted.”³⁹⁶⁷ “Blessed are they that hunger, for they shall be filled.”³⁹⁶⁸ “To comfort all that mourn.”³⁹⁶⁹ “Blessed are they that weep, for they shall laugh.”³⁹⁷⁰ “To give unto them that mourn in Sion, beauty (or glory) for ashes, and the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.”³⁹⁷¹ Now since Christ, as soon as He entered on His course,³⁹⁷² fulfilled such a ministration as this, He is either, Himself, He who predicted His own coming to do all this; or else if he is not yet come who predicted this, the charge to Marcion’s Christ must be a ridiculous one (although I should perhaps add a necessary³⁹⁷³ one), which bade him say, “Blessed shall ye be, when men shall hate you, and shall reproach you, and shall cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man’s sake.”³⁹⁷⁴ In this declaration there is, no doubt, an exhortation to patience. Well, what did the Creator say otherwise by Isaiah? “Fear ye not the reproach of men, nor be diminished by their contempt.”³⁹⁷⁵ What reproach? what contempt? That which was to be incurred for the sake of the Son of man. What Son of man? He who (is come) according to the Creator’s will. Whence shall we get our proof? From the very cutting off, which was predicted against Him; as when He says by Isaiah to the Jews, who were the instigators of hatred against Him: “Because of you, my name is blasphemed amongst the Gentiles;”³⁹⁷⁶ and in another passage: “Lay the penalty on”³⁹⁷⁷ Him who surrenders³⁹⁷⁸ His own life, who is held in contempt by the Gentiles, whether servants or magistrates.”³⁹⁷⁹ Now, since hatred was predicted against that Son of man who has His mission from the Creator, whilst the Gospel testifies that the name of Christians, as derived from Christ, was

3965 [Isa. lxi. 1.](#)

3966 [Luke vi. 20.](#)

3967 [Isa. lxi. 1.](#)

3968 [Luke vi. 21.](#)

3969 [Isa. lxi. 2.](#)

3970 [Luke vi. 21.](#)

3971 [Isa. lxi. 3.](#)

3972 Statim admissus.

3973 Said in irony, as if Marcion’s Christ deserved the rejection.

3974 [Luke vi. 22.](#)

3975 His reading of [Isa. li. 7.](#)

3976 [Isa. lii. 5.](#)

3977 Sancite.

3978 Circumscribit.

3979 Famulis et magistratibus. It is uncertain what passage this quotation represents. It sounds like some of the clauses of [Isa. liii.](#)

to be hated for the Son of man's sake, because He is Christ, it determines the point that that was the Son of man in the matter of hatred who came according to the Creator's purpose, and against whom the hatred was predicted. And even if He had not yet come, the hatred of His name which exists at the present day could not in any case have possibly preceded Him who was to bear the name.³⁹⁸⁰ But He has both suffered the penalty³⁹⁸¹ in our presence, and surrendered His life, laying it down for our sakes, and is held in contempt by the Gentiles. And He who was born (into the world) will be that very Son of man on whose account our name also is rejected.

3980 Personam nominis.

3981 Sancitur.

Chapter XV.—Sermon on the Mount Continued. Its Woes in Strict Agreement with the Creator's Disposition. Many Quotations Out of the Old Testament in Proof of This.

“In the like manner,” says He,³⁹⁸² “did their fathers unto the prophets.” What a turn-coat³⁹⁸³ is *Marcion's* Christ! Now the destroyer, now the advocate of the prophets! He destroyed them as their rival, by converting their disciples; he took up their cause as their friend, by stigmatizing³⁹⁸⁴ their persecutors. But,³⁹⁸⁵ in *as* far as the defence of the prophets could not be consistent in the Christ of Marcion, who came to destroy them; in *so* far is it becoming to the Creator's Christ that He should stigmatize those who persecuted the prophets, for He in all things accomplished their predictions. Again, it is more characteristic of the Creator to upbraid sons with their fathers' sins, than it is of that god who chastizes no man for even his own misdeeds. But you will say, He cannot be regarded as defending the prophets simply because He wished to affirm the iniquity of the Jews for their impious dealings with their own prophets. Well, then, in this case,³⁹⁸⁶ no sin ought to have been charged against the Jews: they were rather deserving of praise and approbation when they maltreated³⁹⁸⁷ those whom the absolutely good god *of Marcion*, after so long a time, bestirred himself³⁹⁸⁸ to destroy. I suppose, however, that by this time he had ceased to be the absolutely good god;³⁹⁸⁹ he had now sojourned a considerable while even with the Creator, and was no longer (like) the god of Epicurus³⁹⁹⁰ purely and simply. For see how he condescends³⁹⁹¹ to curse, and proves himself capable of taking offence and feeling anger! He actually pronounces a *woe!* But a doubt is raised against us as to the import of this word, as if it carried with it less the sense of a curse than of an admonition. Where, however, is the difference, since even an admonition is not given without the sting of a threat, especially when it is embittered with a *woe?* Moreover, both admonition and threatening will be the resources of him³⁹⁹² who knows how to feel angry. For no one will forbid the doing of a thing with



3982 [Luke vi. 26.](#)

3983 Versipellem. An indignant exclamation on Marcion's Christ.

3984 Suggillans.

3985 Porro.

3986 Hic.

3987 Suggillaverunt. This is Oehler's emendation; the common reading is *figuraverunt*.

3988 Motus est.

3989 Deus optimus.

3990 That is, apathetic, inert, and careless about human affairs.

3991 Demutat.

3992 Ejus erunt.

an admonition or a threat, except him who will inflict punishment for the doing of it. No one would inflict punishment, except him who was susceptible of anger. Others, again, admit that the word implies a curse; but they will have it that Christ pronounced the woe, not as if it were His own genuine feeling, but because the woe is from the Creator, and He wanted to set forth to them the severity of the Creator in order that He might the more commend His own long-suffering³⁹⁹³ in His beatitudes. Just as if it were not competent to the Creator, in the pre-eminence of both His attributes as the good God and Judge, that, as He had made clemency³⁹⁹⁴ the preamble of His benediction so He should place severity in the sequel of His curses; thus fully developing His discipline in both directions, both in following out the blessing and in providing against the curse.³⁹⁹⁵ He had already said of old, “Behold, I have set before you blessing and cursing.”³⁹⁹⁶ Which statement was really a presage of³⁹⁹⁷ this temper of the gospel. Besides, what sort of being is that who, to insinuate a belief in his own goodness, invidiously contrasted³⁹⁹⁸ with it the Creator’s severity? Of little worth is the recommendation which has for its prop the defamation of another. And yet by thus setting forth the severity of the Creator, he, in fact, affirmed Him to be an object of fear.³⁹⁹⁹ Now if He be an object of fear, He is of course more worthy of being obeyed than slighted; and thus Marcion’s Christ begins to teach favourably to the Creator’s interests.⁴⁰⁰⁰ Then, *on the admission above mentioned*, since the woe which has regard to the rich is the Creator’s, it follows that it is not Christ, but the Creator, who is angry with the rich; while Christ approves of⁴⁰⁰¹ the incentives of the rich⁴⁰⁰²—I mean, their pride, their pomp,⁴⁰⁰³ their love of the world, and their contempt of God, owing to which they deserve the woe of the Creator. But how happens it that the reprobation of the rich does not proceed from the same *God* who had just before expressed approbation of the poor? There is nobody but reprobates the opposite of that which he has approved. If, therefore, there be imputed to the Creator the woe pronounced against the rich, there must be claimed for Him also the promise of the blessing upon the poor; and thus the entire work of the Creator devolves on Christ.—If to Marcion’s

3993 Sufferentiam.

3994 Benignitatem.

3995 Ad maledictionem præcavendam.

3996 [Deut. xxx. 19.](#)

3997 Portendebat in.

3998 Opposuit.

3999 Timendum.

4000 Creatori docere.

4001 Ratas habet.

4002 Divitum causas.

4003 Gloriam.

god there be ascribed the blessing of the poor, he must also have imputed to him the malediction of the rich; and thus will he become the Creator's equal,⁴⁰⁰⁴ both good and judicial; nor will there be left any room for that distinction whereby two gods are made; and when this distinction is removed, there will remain the verity which pronounces the Creator to be the one only God. Since, therefore, "*woe*" is a word indicative of malediction, or of some unusually austere⁴⁰⁰⁵ exclamation; and since it is by Christ uttered against the rich, I shall have to show that the Creator is also a despiser⁴⁰⁰⁶ of the rich, as I have shown Him to be the defender⁴⁰⁰⁷ of the poor, in order that I may prove Christ to be on the Creator's side in this matter, even when He enriched Solomon.⁴⁰⁰⁸ But *with respect to this man*, since, when a choice was left to him, he preferred asking for what he knew to be well-pleasing to God—even wisdom—he further merited the attainment of the riches, which he did not prefer. The endowing of a man indeed with riches, is not an incongruity to God, for by the help of riches even rich men are comforted and assisted; moreover, by them many a work of justice and charity is carried out. But yet there are serious faults⁴⁰⁰⁹ which accompany riches; and it is because of these that woes are denounced on the rich, even in the Gospel. "Ye have received," says He, "your consolation;"⁴⁰¹⁰ that is, of course, from their riches, in the pomps and vanities of the world which these purchase for them. Accordingly, in Deuteronomy, Moses says: "Lest, when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, as well as thy silver and thy gold, thine heart be then lifted up, and thou forget the Lord thy God."⁴⁰¹¹ In similar terms, when king Hezekiah became proud of his treasures, and gloried in them rather than in God before those who had come on an embassy from Babylon,⁴⁰¹² (the Creator) breaks forth⁴⁰¹³ against him by the mouth of Isaiah: "Behold, the days come when all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store, shall be carried to Babylon."⁴⁰¹⁴ So by Jeremiah likewise did He say: "Let not the rich man glory in his riches but let him that glorieth even glory in the Lord."⁴⁰¹⁵ Similarly against the daughters of Sion does He inveigh by Isaiah,



4004 Erit par creatoris.

4005 Austerioris.

4006 Aspernatorem.

4007 Advocatorem.

4008 [1 Kings iii. 5–13.](#)

4009 Vitia.

4010 [Luke vi. 24.](#) [See Southey's *Wesley*, on "Riches," vol. ii. p. 310.]

4011 [Deut. viii. 12–14.](#)

4012 Tertullian says, *ex Perside*.

4013 Insilit.

4014 [Isa. xxxix. 6.](#)

4015 [Jer. ix. 23, 24.](#)

when they were haughty through their pomp and the abundance of their riches,⁴⁰¹⁶ just as in another passage He utters His threats against the proud and noble: “Hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth, and down to it shall descend the illustrious, and the great, and the rich (this shall be Christ’s ‘woe to the rich’); and man⁴⁰¹⁷ shall be humbled,” even he that exalts himself with riches; “and the mighty man⁴⁰¹⁸ shall be dishonoured,” even he who is mighty from his wealth.⁴⁰¹⁹ Concerning whom He says again: “Behold, the Lord of hosts shall confound the pompous together with their strength: those that are lifted up shall be hewn down, and such as are lofty shall fall by the sword.”⁴⁰²⁰ And who are these but the rich? Because they have indeed received their consolation, glory, and honour and a lofty position from their wealth. In [Psalm xlvi](#). He also turns off our care from these and says: “Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, and when his glory is increased: for when he shall die, he shall carry nothing away; nor shall his glory descend along with him.”⁴⁰²¹ So also in [Psalm lxi](#): “Do not desire riches; and if they do yield you their lustre,⁴⁰²² do not set your heart upon them.”⁴⁰²³ Lastly, this very same *woe* is pronounced of old by Amos against the rich, who also abounded in delights. “Woe unto them,” says he, “who sleep upon beds of ivory, and deliciously stretch themselves upon their couches; who eat the kids from the flocks of the goats, and sucking calves from the flocks of the heifers, while they chant to the sound of the viol; as if they thought they should continue long, and were not fleeting; who drink their refined wines, and anoint themselves with the costliest ointments.”⁴⁰²⁴ Therefore, even if I could do nothing else than show that the Creator dissuades men from riches, without at the same time first condemning the rich, in the very same terms in which Christ also did, no one could doubt that, from the same authority, there was added a commination against the rich in that woe of Christ, from whom also had first proceeded the dissuasion against the material sin of these persons, that is, their riches. For such commination is the necessary sequel to such a dissuasive. He inflicts a woe also on “the full, because they shall hunger; on those too which laugh now, because they shall mourn.”⁴⁰²⁵ To these will correspond these opposites which occur, as we have seen above, in the benedictions of the Creator:

4016 [Isa. iii. 16–24.](#)

4017 Homo: “the mean man,” A.V.

4018 Vir.

4019 [Isa. v. 14.](#)

4020 [Isa. x. 33.](#)

4021 [Ps. xlix. 16, 17.](#)

4022 Relucens.

4023 [Ps. lxii. 11.](#)

4024 [Amos vi. 1–6.](#)

4025 [Luke vi. 25.](#)

“Behold, my servants shall be full, but ye shall be hungry”—even because ye have been filled; “behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed”⁴⁰²⁶—even ye who shall mourn, who now are laughing. For as it is written in the psalm, “They who sow in tears shall reap in joy,”⁴⁰²⁷ so does it run in the Gospel: They who sow in laughter, that is, in joy, shall reap in tears. These principles did the Creator lay down of old; and Christ has renewed them, by simply bringing them into prominent view,⁴⁰²⁸ not by making any change in them. “Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.”⁴⁰²⁹ With equal stress does the Creator, by His prophet Isaiah, censure those who seek after human flattery and praise: “O my people, they who call you happy mislead you, and disturb the paths of your feet.”⁴⁰³⁰ In another passage He forbids all implicit trust in man, and likewise in the applause of man; as by the prophet Jeremiah: “Cursed be the man that trusteth in man.”⁴⁰³¹ Whereas in [Psalm cxvii](#), it is said: “It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man; it is better to trust in the Lord than to place hope in princes.”⁴⁰³² Thus everything which is caught at by men is adjured by the Creator, down to their good words.⁴⁰³³ It is as much His property to condemn the praise and flattering words bestowed on the false prophets by their fathers, as to condemn their vexatious and persecuting treatment of the (true) prophets. As the injuries suffered by the prophets could not be imputed⁴⁰³⁴ to their own God, so the applause bestowed on the false prophets could not have been displeasing to any other god but the God of the true prophets.



4026 [Isa. lxxv. 13.](#)
4027 [Ps. cxxvi. 5.](#)
4028 Distinguendo.
4029 [Luke vi. 26.](#)
4030 [Isa. iiii. 12.](#)
4031 [Jer. xvii. 5.](#)
4032 [Ps. cxviii. 8, 9.](#)
4033 Nedum benedictionem.
4034 Non pertinuisent ad.

Chapter XVI.—The Precept of Loving One's Enemies. It is as Much Taught in the Creator's Scriptures of the Old Testament as in Christ's Sermon. The Lex Talionis of Moses Admirably Explained in Consistency with the Kindness and Love Which Jesus Christ Came to Proclaim and Enforce in Behalf of the Creator. Sundry Precepts of Charity Explained.

“But I say unto you which hear” (displaying here that old injunction, of the Creator: “Speak to the ears of those who lend them to you”⁴⁰³⁵), “Love your enemies, and bless⁴⁰³⁶ those which hate you, and pray for them which calumniate you.”⁴⁰³⁷ These commands the Creator included in one precept by His prophet Isaiah: “Say, Ye are our brethren, to those who hate you.”⁴⁰³⁸ For if they who are our enemies, and hate us, and speak evil of us, and calumniate us, are to be called our brethren, surely He did in effect bid us bless them that hate us, and pray for them who calumniate us, when He instructed us to reckon them as brethren. Well, but Christ plainly teaches a new kind of patience,⁴⁰³⁹ when He actually prohibits the reprisals which the Creator permitted in requiring “an eye for an eye,⁴⁰⁴⁰ and a tooth for a tooth,”⁴⁰⁴¹ and bids us, on the contrary, “to him who smiteth us on the one cheek, to offer the other also, and to give up our coat to him that taketh away our cloak.”⁴⁰⁴² No doubt these are supplementary additions by Christ, but they are quite in keeping with the teaching of the Creator. And therefore this question must at once be determined,⁴⁰⁴³ Whether the discipline of patience be enjoined by⁴⁰⁴⁴ the Creator? When by Zechariah He commanded, “Let none of you imagine evil against his *brother*,”⁴⁰⁴⁵ He did not expressly include his *neighbour*; but then in another passage He says, “Let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his *neighbour*.”⁴⁰⁴⁶ He who counselled that an injury should be for-

4035 [2 Esdras xv. 1](#) and comp. [Luke vi. 27, 28](#).

4036 *Benedicite*. St. Luke's word, however, is *καλῶς ποιεῖτε*, “do good.”

4037 *Calumniantur*. St. Luke's word applies to injury of *speech* as well as of *act*.

4038 [Isa. lxvi. 5](#).

4039 “We have here the sense of Marcion's objection. I do not suppose Tertullian quotes his very words.”—Le Prieur.

4040 Le Prieur refers to a similar passage in Tertullian's *De Patientia*, chap. vi. Oehler quotes an eloquent passage in illustration from Valerianus Episc. *Hom. xiii*.

4041 [Ex. xxi. 24](#).

4042 [Luke vi. 29](#).

4043 *Renuntiandum est*.

4044 *Penes*.

4045 [Zech. vii. 10](#).

4046 [Zech. viii. 17](#).

gotten, was still more likely to counsel the patient endurance of it. But then, when He said, “Vengeance is mine, and I will repay,”⁴⁰⁴⁷ He thereby teaches that patience calmly waits for the infliction of vengeance. Therefore, inasmuch as it is incredible⁴⁰⁴⁸ that the same (God) should seem to require “a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye,” in return for an injury, who forbids not only all reprisals, but even a revengeful thought or recollection of an injury, in so far does it become plain to us in what sense He required “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth,”—not, indeed, for the purpose of permitting the repetition of the injury by retaliating it, which it virtually prohibited when it forbade vengeance; but for the purpose of restraining the injury in the first instance, which it had forbidden on pain of retaliation or reciprocity;⁴⁰⁴⁹ so that every man, in view of the permission to inflict a second (or retaliatory) injury, might abstain from the commission of the first (or provocative) wrong. For He knows how much more easy it is to repress violence by the prospect of retaliation, than by the promise of (indefinite) vengeance. Both results, however, it was necessary to provide, in consideration of the nature and the faith of men, that the man who believed in God might expect vengeance from God, while he who had no faith (to restrain him) might fear the laws which prescribed retaliation.⁴⁰⁵⁰ This purpose⁴⁰⁵¹ of the law, which it was difficult to understand, Christ, as the Lord of the Sabbath and of the law, and of all the dispensations of the Father, both revealed and made intelligible,⁴⁰⁵² when He commanded that “the other cheek should be offered (to the smiter),” in order that He might the more effectually extinguish all reprisals of an injury, which the law had wished to prevent by the method of retaliation, (and) which most certainly revelation⁴⁰⁵³ had manifestly restricted, both by prohibiting the memory of the wrong, and referring the vengeance thereof to God. Thus, whatever (new provision) Christ introduced, He did it not in opposition to the law, but rather in furtherance of it, without at all impairing the prescription⁴⁰⁵⁴ of the Creator. If, therefore,⁴⁰⁵⁵ one looks carefully⁴⁰⁵⁶ into the very grounds for which patience is enjoined (and *that* to such a full and complete extent), one finds that it cannot stand if it is not the precept of the Creator, who promises vengeance, who presents Himself as the judge (in the



4047 Deut. xxxii. 35; comp. Rom. xii. 19 and Heb. x. 30.

4048 Fidem non capit.

4049 Talione, opposito.

4050 Leges talionis. [Judicial, not personal, reprisals.]

4051 Voluntatem.

4052 Computem facit. That is, says Oehler, *intellectus sui*.

4053 Prophetia.

4054 Disciplinas: or, “lessons.”

4055 Denique.

4056 Considerem, or, as some of the editions have it, *consideremus*.

case). If it were not so,⁴⁰⁵⁷—if so vast a weight of patience—which is to refrain from giving blow for blow; which is to offer the other cheek; which is not only not to return railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing; and which, so far from keeping the coat, is to give up the cloak also—is laid upon me by one who means not to help me,—(then all I can say is,) he has taught me patience to no purpose,⁴⁰⁵⁸ because he shows me no reward to his precept—I mean no fruit of such patience. There is revenge which he ought to have permitted me to take, if he meant not to inflict it himself; if he did not give me that permission, then he should himself have inflicted it;⁴⁰⁵⁹ since it is for the interest of discipline itself that an injury should be avenged. For by the fear of vengeance all iniquity is curbed. But if licence is allowed to it without discrimination,⁴⁰⁶⁰ it will get the mastery—it will put out (a man's) both eyes; it will knock out⁴⁰⁶¹ every tooth in the safety of its impunity. This, however, is (the principle) of your good and simply beneficent god—to do a wrong to patience, to open the door to violence, to leave the righteous undefended, and the wicked unrestrained! “Give to every one that asketh of thee”⁴⁰⁶²—to the indigent of course, or rather to the indigent more especially, although to the affluent likewise. But in order that no man may be indigent, you have in Deuteronomy a provision commanded by the Creator to the creditor.⁴⁰⁶³ “There shall not be in thine hand an indigent man; so that the Lord thy God shall bless thee with blessings,”⁴⁰⁶⁴—*thee* meaning the creditor to whom it was owing that the man was not indigent. But more than this. To one who does not ask, He bids a gift to be given. “Let there be, not,” He says, “a poor man in thine hand;” in other words, see that there be not, so far as thy will can prevent;⁴⁰⁶⁵ by which command, too, He all the more strongly by inference requires⁴⁰⁶⁶ men to give to him that asks, as in the following words also: “If there be among you a poor man of thy brethren, thou shalt not turn away thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother. But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him as much as he wanteth.”⁴⁰⁶⁷ Loans are not usually given, except to such as ask for them. On

4057 Alioquin.

4058 In vacuum.

4059 Præstare, i.e., debuerat præstare.

4060 Passim.

4061 Excitatura.

4062 [Luke vi. 30.](#)

4063 Datori.

4064 The author's reading of [Deut. xv. 4.](#)

4065 Cura ultro ne sit.

4066 Præjudicat.

4067 [Deut. xv. 7, 8.](#)

this subject of lending,⁴⁰⁶⁸ however, more hereafter.⁴⁰⁶⁹ Now, should any one wish to argue that the Creator's precepts extended only to a man's brethren, but Christ's to all that ask, so as to make the latter a new and different precept, (I have to reply) that one rule only can be made out of those principles, which show the law of the Creator to be repeated in Christ.⁴⁰⁷⁰ For that is not a different thing which Christ enjoined to be done towards all men, from that which the Creator prescribed in favour of a man's brethren. For although that is a greater charity, which is shown to strangers, it is yet not preferable to that⁴⁰⁷¹ which was previously due to one's neighbours. For what man will be able to bestow the love (which proceeds from knowledge of character,⁴⁰⁷² upon strangers? Since, however, the second step⁴⁰⁷³ in charity is towards strangers, while the first is towards one's neighbours, the second step will belong to him to whom the first also belongs, more fitly than the second will belong to him who owned no first.⁴⁰⁷⁴ Accordingly, the Creator, when following the course of nature, taught in the first instance kindness to *neighbours*,⁴⁰⁷⁵ intending afterwards to enjoin it towards *strangers*; and when following the method of His dispensation, He limited charity first to the Jews, but afterwards extended it to the whole race of mankind. So long, therefore, as the *mystery of His government*⁴⁰⁷⁶ was confined to Israel, He properly commanded that pity should be shown only to a man's brethren; but when Christ had given to Him "the Gentiles for His heritage, and the ends of the earth for His possession," then began to be accomplished what was said by Hosea: "Ye are not my people, who were my people; ye have not obtained mercy, who once obtained mercy"⁴⁰⁷⁷—that is, the (Jewish) nation. Thenceforth Christ extended to all men the law of His Father's compassion, excepting none from His mercy, as He omitted none in His invitation. So that, whatever was the ampler scope of His teaching, He received it all in His heritage of the nations. "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."⁴⁰⁷⁸ In this command is no doubt

4068 De fenore.

4069 Below, in the next chapter.

4070 This obscure passage runs thus: "Immo unum erit ex his per quæ lex Creatoris erit in Christo."

4071 Prior ea.

4072 This is the idea, apparently, of Tertullian's question: "Quis enim poterit *diligere* extraneos?" But a different turn is given to the sense in the older reading of the passage: Quis enim non diligens proximos poterit diligere extraneos? "For who that loveth not his neighbours will be able to love strangers?" The inserted words, however, were inserted conjecturally by Fulvius Ursinus without ms. authority.

4073 Gradus.

4074 Cujus non extitit primus.

4075 In proximos.

4076 Sacramentum.

4077 The sense rather than the words of Hos. i. 6, 9.

4078 Luke vi. 31.

implied its counterpart: “And as ye would *not* that men should do to you, so should ye also *not* do to them likewise.” Now, if this were the teaching of the new and previously unknown and not yet fully proclaimed deity, who had favoured me with no instruction beforehand, whereby I might first learn what I ought to choose or to refuse for myself, and to do to others what I would wish done to myself, not doing to them what I should be unwilling to have done to myself, it would certainly be nothing else than the chance-medley of my own sentiments⁴⁰⁷⁹ which he would have left to me, binding me to no proper rule of wish or action, in order that I might do to others what I would like for myself, or refrain from doing to others what I should dislike to have done to myself. For he has not, in fact, defined what I ought to wish or not to wish for myself as well as for others, so that I shape my conduct⁴⁰⁸⁰ according to the law of my own will, and have it in my power⁴⁰⁸¹ not to render⁴⁰⁸² to another what I would like to have rendered to myself—love, obedience, consolation, protection, and such like blessings; and in like manner to do to another what I should be unwilling to have done to myself—violence, wrong, insult, deceit, and evils of like sort. Indeed, the heathen who have not been instructed by God act on this incongruous liberty of the will and the conduct.⁴⁰⁸³ For although good and evil are severally known by nature, yet life is not thereby spent⁴⁰⁸⁴ under the discipline of God, which alone at last teaches men the proper liberty of their will and action in faith, as in the fear of God. The god of Marcion, therefore, although specially revealed, was, in spite of his revelation, unable to publish any summary of the precept in question, which had hitherto been so confined,⁴⁰⁸⁵ and obscure, and dark, and admitting of no ready interpretation, except according to my own arbitrary thought,⁴⁰⁸⁶ because he had provided no previous discrimination in the matter of such a precept. This, however, was not the case with my God, for⁴⁰⁸⁷ He always and everywhere enjoined that the poor, and the orphan, and the widow should be protected, assisted, refreshed; thus by Isaiah He says: “Deal thy bread to the hungry, and them that are houseless bring into thine house; when thou seest the naked, cover him.”⁴⁰⁸⁸ By Ezekiel also He thus describes the just man: “His bread will he give to the hungry, and the naked will he cover

4079 Passivitate[m] sententiæ meæ.

4080 Pare[m] factum.

4081 Possim.

4082 Præstare.

4083 Hac inconveniētia voluntatis et facti. Will and action.

4084 Non agitur.

4085 Strictum.

4086 Pro meo arbitrio.

4087 At enim. The Greek ἀλλὰ γάρ.

4088 [Isa. lviii. 7.](#)

with a garment.”⁴⁰⁸⁹ That teaching was even then a sufficient inducement to me to do to others what I would that they should do unto me. Accordingly, when He uttered such denunciations as, “Thou shalt do no murder; thou shalt not commit adultery; thou shalt not steal; thou shalt not bear false witness,”⁴⁰⁹⁰—He taught me to refrain from doing to others what I should be unwilling to have done to myself; and therefore the precept developed in the Gospel will belong to Him alone, who anciently drew it up, and gave it distinctive point, and arranged it after the decision of His own teaching, and has now reduced it, suitably to its importance,⁴⁰⁹¹ to a compendious formula, because (as it was predicted in another passage) the Lord—that is, Christ—“was to make (or utter) a concise word on earth.”⁴⁰⁹²

4089 Ezek. xviii. 7.

4090 Ex. xx. 13–16.

4091 Merito.

4092 “Recisum sermonem facturus in terris Dominus.” This reading of *Isa. x. 23* is very unlike the original, but (as frequently happens in Tertullian) is close upon the Septuagint version: “Ὅτι λόγον συντετμημένον Κύριος ποιήσει ἐν τῇ οἰκουμένῃ ὅλη. [*Rom. ix. 28.*]

Chapter XVII.—Concerning Loans. Prohibition of Usury and the Usurious Spirit.
The Law Preparatory to the Gospel in Its Provisions; So in the Present Instance.
On Reprisals. Christ's Teaching Throughout Proves Him to Be Sent by the
Creator.

And now, on the subject of a loan, when He asks, "And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye?"⁴⁰⁹³ compare with this the following words of Ezekiel, in which He says of the before-mentioned just man, "He hath not given his money upon usury, nor will he take any increase"⁴⁰⁹⁴—meaning the redundance of interest,⁴⁰⁹⁵ which is usury. The first step was to eradicate the fruit of the money lent,⁴⁰⁹⁶ the more easily to accustom a man to the loss, should it happen, of the money *itself*, the interest of which he had learnt to lose. Now this, we affirm, was the function of the law as preparatory to the gospel. It was engaged in forming the faith of such as would learn,⁴⁰⁹⁷ by gradual stages, for the perfect light of the Christian discipline, through the best precepts of which it was capable,⁴⁰⁹⁸ inculcating a benevolence which as yet expressed itself but falteringly.⁴⁰⁹⁹ For in the passage of Ezekiel quoted above He says, "And thou shalt restore the pledge of the loan"⁴¹⁰⁰—to him, certainly, who is incapable of repayment, because, as a matter of course, He would not anyhow prescribe the restoration of a pledge to one who was solvent. Much more clearly is it enjoined in Deuteronomy: "Thou shalt not sleep upon his pledge; thou shalt be sure to return to him his garment about sunset, and he shall sleep in his own garment."⁴¹⁰¹ Clearer still is a former passage: "Thou shalt remit every debt which thy neighbour oweth thee; and of thy brother thou shalt not require it, because it is called the release of the Lord thy God."⁴¹⁰² Now, when He commands that a debt be remitted to a man who shall be unable to pay it (for it is a still stronger argument when He forbids its being asked for from a man who is even able to repay it), what else does He teach than that we should lend to those of whom we cannot receive again, inasmuch as He has imposed so great a loss on lending? "And ye shall be the children of God."⁴¹⁰³ What can be more shameless, than



4093 [Luke vi. 34.](#) [Bossuet, *Traité de l'usure*, Opp. ix. 48.]

4094 [Ezek. xviii. 8.](#) [Huet, *Règne Social*, etc., p. 334. Paris, 1858.]

4095 Literally, what redounds to the loan.

4096 Fructum fenoris: the interest.

4097 Quorundam tunc fidem.

4098 Primis quibusque præceptis.

4099 Balbutientis adhuc benignitatis. [Elucidation IV.]

4100 Pignus reddes dati (i.e., fenoris) is his reading of a clause in [Ezek. xviii. 16.](#)

4101 [Deut. xxiv. 12, 13.](#)

4102 [Deut. xv. 2.](#)

4103 [Luke vi. 35.](#) In the original the phrase is, υἱοὶ τοῦ ὑψίστου.

for him to be making us his *children*, who has not permitted us to make children for ourselves by forbidding marriage?⁴¹⁰⁴ How does he propose to invest his followers with a name which he has already erased? I cannot be the son of a eunuch especially when I have for my Father the same great Being whom the universe claims for its! For is not the Founder of the universe as much a Father, even of all men, as (Marcion's) castrated deity,⁴¹⁰⁵ who is the maker of no existing thing? Even if the Creator had not united male and female, and if He had not allowed any living creature whatever to have children, I yet had this relation to Him⁴¹⁰⁶ before Paradise, before the fall, before the expulsion, before the two became one.⁴¹⁰⁷ I became His son a second time,⁴¹⁰⁸ as soon as He fashioned me⁴¹⁰⁹ with His hands, and gave me motion with His inbreathing. Now again He names me His son, not begetting me into natural life, but into spiritual life.⁴¹¹⁰ "Because," says He, "He is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil."⁴¹¹¹ Well done,⁴¹¹² Marcion! how cleverly have you withdrawn from Him the showers and the sunshine, that He might not seem to be a Creator! But who is this kind being⁴¹¹³ which hitherto has not been even known? How can he be kind who had previously shown no evidences of such a kindness as this, which consists of the loan to us of sunshine and rain?—who is not destined to receive from the human race (the homage due to that) Creator,—who, up to this very moment, in return for His vast liberality in the gift of the elements, bears with men while they offer to idols, more readily than Himself, the due returns of His graciousness. *But God* is truly kind even in spiritual blessings. "The utterances⁴¹¹⁴ of the Lord are sweeter than honey and honeycombs."⁴¹¹⁵ He then has taunted⁴¹¹⁶ men as ungrateful who deserved to have their gratitude—even He, whose sunshine and rain even you, O Marcion, have enjoyed, but without gratitude! Your god, however, had no right to complain of man's ingratitude, because he had used no means to make them grateful.

4104 One of the flagrant errors of Marcion's belief of God. See above, chap. xi.

4105 Quam spado.

4106 Hoc eram ejus.

4107 Ante duos unum. Before God made Adam and Eve one flesh, "I was *created* Adam, not became so by birth."—Fr. Junius.

4108 Denuo.

4109 Me enixus est.

4110 Non in animam sed in spiritum.

4111 [Luke vi. 35.](#)

4112 Euge.

4113 Suavis.

4114 Eloquia.

4115 [Ps. xix. 11.](#)

4116 Suggillavit.

Compassion also does He teach: “Be ye merciful,” says He, “as your Father also that had mercy upon you.”⁴¹¹⁷ This injunction will be of a piece with, “Deal thy bread to the hungry; and if he be houseless, bring him into thine house; and if thou seest the naked, cover him;”⁴¹¹⁸ also with, “Judge the fatherless, plead with the widow.”⁴¹¹⁹ I recognise here that ancient doctrine of Him who “prefers mercy to sacrifice.”⁴¹²⁰ If, however, it be now some other being which teaches mercy, on the ground of his own mercifulness, how happens it that he has been wanting in mercy to me for so vast an age? “Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned; forgive, and ye shall be forgiven; give, and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye measure withal, it shall be measured to you again.”⁴¹²¹ As it seems to me, this passage announces a retribution proportioned to the merits. But from whom shall come the retribution? If only from men, in that case he teaches a merely human discipline and recompense; and in everything we shall have to obey man: if from the Creator, as the Judge and the Recompenser of merits, then He compels our submission to Him, in whose hands⁴¹²² He has placed a retribution which will be acceptable or terrible according as every man shall have judged or condemned, acquitted or dealt with,⁴¹²³ his neighbour; if from (Marcion’s god) himself, he will then exercise a judicial function which Marcion denies. Let the Marcionites therefore make their choice: Will it not be just the same inconsistency to desert the prescription of their master, as to have Christ teaching in the interest of men or of the Creator? But “a blind man will lead a blind man into the ditch.”⁴¹²⁴ Some persons believe Marcion. But “the disciple is not above his master.”⁴¹²⁵ Apelles ought to have remembered this—a corrector of Marcion, although his disciple.⁴¹²⁶ The heretic ought to take the beam out of his own eye, and then he may convict⁴¹²⁷ the Christian, should he suspect a mote to be in *his* eye. Just as a good tree cannot produce evil fruit, so neither can truth generate heresy; and as a corrupt tree cannot yield good fruit, so heresy will not produce truth. Thus, Marcion brought nothing good out of

4117 Reading of [Luke vi. 36.](#)

4118 [Isa. lviii. 7.](#)

4119 [Isa. i. 17.](#)

4120 [Hos. vi. 6.](#)

4121 [Luke vi. 37, 38.](#)

4122 *Apud quem.*

4123 *Mensus fuerit.*

4124 [Luke vi. 39.](#)

4125 [Luke vi. 40.](#)

4126 *De discipulo.*

4127 *Revincat.*

Cerdon's evil treasure; nor Apelles out of Marcion's.⁴¹²⁸ For in applying to these heretics the figurative words which Christ used of men in general, we shall make a much more suitable interpretation of them than if we were to deduce out of them two gods, according to Marcion's grievous exposition.⁴¹²⁹ I think that I have the best reason possible for insisting still upon the position which I have all along occupied, that in no passage to be anywhere found has another God been revealed by Christ. I wonder that in this place alone Marcion's hands should have felt benumbed in their adulterating labour.⁴¹³⁰ But even robbers have their qualms now and then. There is no wrong-doing without fear, because there is none without a guilty conscience. So long, then, were the Jews cognisant of no other god but Him, beside whom they knew none else; nor did they call upon any other than Him whom alone they knew. This being the case, who will He clearly be⁴¹³¹ that said, "Why callest thou me Lord, Lord?"⁴¹³² Will it be he who had as yet never been called on, because never yet revealed;⁴¹³³ or He who was ever regarded as the Lord, because known from the beginning—even the God of the Jews? Who, again, could possibly have added, "and do not the things which I say?" Could it have been he who was only then doing his best⁴¹³⁴ to teach them? Or He who from the beginning had addressed to them His messages⁴¹³⁵ both by the law and the prophets? He could then upbraid them with disobedience, even if He had no ground at any time else for His reproof. The fact is, that He who was then imputing to them their ancient obstinacy was none other than He who, before the coming of Christ, had addressed to them these words, "This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart standeth far off from me."⁴¹³⁶ Otherwise, how absurd it were that a new god, a new Christ, the revealer of a new and so grand a religion should denounce as obstinate and disobedient those whom he had never had it in his power to make trial of!

4128 [Luke vi. 41–45](#). Cerdon is here referred to as Marcion's master, and Apelles as Marcion's pupil.

4129 Scandalum. See above, book i. chap. ii., for Marcion's perverse application of the figure of the good and the corrupt tree.

4130 In hoc solo adulterium Marcionis manus stupuisse miror. He means that this passage has been left uncorrupted by M. (as if his hand failed in the pruning process), foolishly for *him*.

4131 Videbitur.

4132 [Luke vi. 46](#).

4133 Editus.

4134 Temptabat. Perhaps, "was tampering with them."

4135 Eloquia.

4136 [Isa. xxix. 13](#).

Chapter XVIII.—Concerning the Centurion's Faith. The Raising of the Widow's Son. John Baptist, and His Message to Christ; And the Woman Who Was a Sinner. Proofs Extracted from All of the Relation of Christ to the Creator.

Likewise, when extolling the centurion's faith, how incredible a thing it is, that *He* should confess that He had "found so great a faith not even in Israel,"⁴¹³⁷ to whom Israel's faith was in no way interesting!⁴¹³⁸ But not from the fact (here stated by Christ)⁴¹³⁹ could it have been of any interest to Him to approve and compare what was hitherto crude, nay, I might say, hitherto naught. Why, however, might He not have used the example of faith in another⁴¹⁴⁰ god? Because, if He had done so, He would have said that no such faith had ever had existence in Israel; but as the case stands,⁴¹⁴¹ He intimates that He ought to have found so great a faith in Israel, inasmuch as He had indeed come for the purpose of finding it, being in truth the God and Christ of Israel, and had now stigmatized⁴¹⁴² it, only as one who would enforce and uphold it. If, indeed, He had been its antagonist,⁴¹⁴³ He would have preferred finding it to be such faith,⁴¹⁴⁴ having come to weaken and destroy it rather than to approve of it. He raised also the widow's son from death.⁴¹⁴⁵ This was not a strange miracle.⁴¹⁴⁶ The Creator's prophets had wrought such; then why not His Son much rather? Now, so evidently had the Lord Christ introduced no other god for the working of so momentous a miracle as this, that all who were present gave glory to the Creator, saying: "A great prophet is risen up among us, and God hath visited His people."⁴¹⁴⁷ What God? He, of course, whose people they were, and from whom had come their prophets. But if they glorified the Creator, and Christ (on hearing them, and knowing their meaning) refrained from correcting them even in their very act of invoking⁴¹⁴⁸ the Creator in that vast manifestation of *His*



4137 Luke vii. 1–10.

4138 Comp. Epiphanius, *Hæres.* xlii., *Refut.* 7, for the same argument: Εἰ οὐδὲ ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ τοιαύτην πίστιν εἶδον, κ.τ.λ. "If He found not so great faith, even in Israel, as He discovered in this Gentile centurion, He does not therefore condemn the faith of Israel. For if He were alien from Israel's God, and did not pertain to Him, even as His father, He would certainly not have inferentially praised Israel's faith" (Oehler).

4139 Nec exinde. This points to Christ's words, "I have not *found* such faith in Israel."—Oehler.

4140 Alienæ fidei.

4141 Ceterum.

4142 Suggillasset.

4143 Æmulus.

4144 Eam talem, that is, the faith of Israel.

4145 Luke vii. 11–17.

4146 Documentum.

4147 Luke vii. 16.

4148 Et quidem adhuc orantes.

glory in this raising of the dead, undoubtedly He either announced no other God but Him, whom He thus permitted to be honoured in His own beneficent acts and miracles, or else how happens it that He quietly permitted these persons to remain so long in their error, especially as He came for the very purpose to cure them of their error? But John is offended⁴¹⁴⁹ when he hears of the miracles of Christ, as of an alien god.⁴¹⁵⁰ Well, I on my side⁴¹⁵¹ will first explain the reason of his offence, that I may the more easily explode the scandal⁴¹⁵² of our heretic. Now, that the very Lord Himself of all might, the Word and Spirit of the Father,⁴¹⁵³ was operating and preaching on earth, it was necessary that the portion of the Holy Spirit which, in the form of the prophetic gift,⁴¹⁵⁴ had been through John preparing the ways of the Lord, should now depart from John,⁴¹⁵⁵ and return back again of course to the Lord, as to its all-embracing original.⁴¹⁵⁶ Therefore John, being now an ordinary person, and only one of the many,⁴¹⁵⁷ was offended indeed as a man, but not because he expected or thought of another Christ as teaching or doing nothing new, for he was not even expecting such a one.⁴¹⁵⁸ Nobody will entertain doubts about any one whom (since he knows him not to exist) he has no expectation or thought of. Now John was quite sure that there was no other God but the Creator, even as a Jew, especially as a prophet.⁴¹⁵⁹ Whatever doubt

4149 Comp. Epiphanius, *Hæres.* xlii., *Schol.* 8, cum Refut.; Tertullian, *De Præscript Hæret.* 8; and *De Bapt.* 10.

4150 Ut ulterius. This is the absurd allegation of Marcion. So Epiphanius (Le Prieur).

4151 Ego.

4152 Scandalum. Playing on the word “scandalum” in its application to the Baptist and to Marcion.

4153 “It is most certain that the Son of God, the second Person of the Godhead, is in the writings of the fathers throughout called by the title of *Spirit*, *Spirit of God*, etc.; with which usage agree the Holy Scriptures. See [Mark ii. 8](#); [Rom. i. 3, 4](#); [1 Tim. iii. 16](#); [Heb. ix. 14](#); [1 Pet. iii. 18–20](#); also [John vi. 63](#), compared with 56.”—Bp. Bull, *Def. Nic. Creed* (translated by the translator of this work), vol. i. p. 48 and note X. [The whole passage should be consulted.]

4154 Ex forma prophetici moduli.

4155 Tertullian stands alone in the notion that St. John’s inquiry was owing to any withdrawal of the Spirit, so soon before his martyrdom, or any diminution of his faith. The contrary is expressed by Origen, *Homil.* xxvii., on [Luke vii.](#); Chrysostom on [Matt. xi.](#); Augustine, *Sermon.* 66, *de Verbo*; Hilary on Matthew; Jerome on Matthew, and *Epist.* 121, *ad Algas.*; Ambrose on Luke, book v. § 93. They say mostly that the inquiry was for the sake of his disciples. (*Oxford Library of the Fathers*, vol. x. p. 267, note e). [Elucidation V.]

4156 Ut in massalem suam summam.

4157 Unus jam de turba.

4158 Eundem.

4159 Etiam prophetes.

he felt was evidently rather⁴¹⁶⁰ entertained about Him⁴¹⁶¹ whom he knew indeed to exist but knew not whether He were the very *Christ*. With this fear, therefore, even John asks the question, “Art thou He that should come, or look we for another?”⁴¹⁶²—simply inquiring whether He was come as He whom he was looking for. “Art thou He that should come?” *i.e.* Art thou the coming One? “or look we for another?” *i.e.* Is He whom we are expecting some other than Thou, if Thou art not He whom we expect to come? For he was supposing,⁴¹⁶³ as all men then thought, from the similarity of the miraculous evidences,⁴¹⁶⁴ that a prophet might possibly have been meanwhile sent, from whom the Lord Himself, whose coming was then expected, was different, and to whom He was superior.⁴¹⁶⁵ And there lay John’s difficulty.⁴¹⁶⁶ He was in doubt whether He was actually come whom all men were looking for; whom, moreover, they ought to have recognised by His predicted works, even as the Lord sent word to John, that it was by means of these very works that He was to be recognised.⁴¹⁶⁷ Now, inasmuch as these predictions evidently related to the Creator’s Christ—as we have proved in the examination of each of them—it was perverse enough, if he gave himself out to be *not* the Christ of the Creator, and rested the proof of his statement on those very evidences whereby he was urging his claims to be received as the Creator’s Christ. Far greater still is his perverseness when, not being the Christ of John,⁴¹⁶⁸ he yet bestows on John his testimony, affirming him to be a prophet, nay more, his messenger,⁴¹⁶⁹ applying to him the Scripture, “Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.”⁴¹⁷⁰ He graciously⁴¹⁷¹ adduced the prophecy in the superior sense of the alternative mentioned by the perplexed John, in order that, by affirming that His own precursor was already come in the person of John, He might quench the doubt⁴¹⁷² which lurked in his question: “Art thou He that should come, or look we for another?” Now



4160 Facilius.

4161 Jesus.

4162 [Luke vii. 20.](#)

4163 Sperabat.

4164 Documentorum.

4165 Major.

4166 Scandalum.

4167 [Luke vii. 21, 22.](#)

4168 That is, not the Creator’s Christ—whose prophet John was—therefore a different Christ from Him whom John announced. This is said, of course, on the Marcionite hypothesis (Oehler).

4169 Angelum.

4170 [Luke vii. 26, 27, and Mal. iii. 1–3.](#)

4171 Eleganter.

4172 Scrupulum.

that the forerunner had fulfilled his mission, and the way of the Lord was prepared, He ought now to be acknowledged as that (Christ) for whom the forerunner had made ready the way. *That forerunner* was indeed “greater than all of women born;”⁴¹⁷³ but for all that, He who was least in the kingdom of God⁴¹⁷⁴ was not subject to him;⁴¹⁷⁵ as if the kingdom in which the least person was greater than John belonged to one God, while John, who was greater than all of women born, belonged himself to another God. For whether He speaks of *any* “least person” by reason of his humble position, or of Himself, as being thought to be less than John—since all were running into the wilderness after John rather than after Christ (“What went ye out into the wilderness to see?”⁴¹⁷⁶)—the Creator has equal right⁴¹⁷⁷ to claim as His own both John, greater than any born of women, and Christ, or every “least person *in the kingdom of heaven,*” who was destined to be greater than John in that kingdom, although equally pertaining to the Creator, and who would be so much greater than the prophet,⁴¹⁷⁸ because he would not have been offended at Christ, *an infirmity* which then lessened *the greatness* of John. We have already spoken of the forgiveness⁴¹⁷⁹ of sins. The behaviour of “the woman which was a sinner,” when she covered the Lord’s feet with her kisses, bathed them with her tears, wiped them with the hairs of her head, anointed them with ointment,⁴¹⁸⁰ produced an evidence that what she handled was not an empty phantom,⁴¹⁸¹ but a really solid body, and that her repentance as a sinner deserved forgiveness according to the mind of the Creator, who is accustomed to prefer mercy to sacrifice.⁴¹⁸²

4173 [Luke vii. 28.](#)

4174 That is, *Christ*, according to Epiphanius. See next note.

4175 Comp. the Refutation of Epiphanius (*Hæres. xlii. Refut. 8*): “Whether with reference to John or to the Saviour, He pronounces a blessing on such as should not be offended in Himself or in John. Nor should they devise for themselves whatsoever things they heard not from him. He also has a greater object in view, on account of which the Saviour said this; even that no one should think that John (who was pronounced to be greater than any born of women) was greater than the Saviour Himself, because even He was born of a woman. He guards against this mistake, and says, ‘Blessed is he who shall not be offended in me.’ He then adds, ‘He that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’ Now, in respect of His birth in the flesh, the Saviour was less than he by the space of six months. But in the kingdom He was greater, being even his God. For the Only-begotten came not to say aught in secret, or to utter a falsehood in His preaching, as He says Himself, ‘In secret have I said nothing, but in public,’ etc. (Κἄν τε πρὸς Ἰωάννην ἔχοι...ἀλλὰ μετὰ παρρησίας).” — Oehler.

4176 [Luke vii. 25.](#)

4177 Tantundem competit creatori.

4178 Major tanto propheta.

4179 De remissa.

4180 [Luke vii. 36–50.](#)

4181 Comp. Epiphanius, *Hæres. xlii., Refut. 10, 11.*

4182 [Hos. vi. 6.](#)

But even if the stimulus of her repentance proceeded from her faith, she heard her justification by faith through her repentance pronounced in the words, "Thy faith hath saved thee," by Him who had declared by Habakkuk, "The just shall live by his faith."⁴¹⁸³

4183 [Hab. ii. 4.](#)

Chapter XIX.—The Rich Women of Piety Who Followed Jesus Christ's Teaching by Parables. The Marcionite Cavil Derived from Christ's Remark, When Told of His Mother and His Brethren. Explanation of Christ's Apparent Rejection Them.

The fact that certain rich women clave to Christ, “which ministered unto Him of their substance,” amongst whom was the wife of the king's steward, is a subject of prophecy. By Isaiah *the Lord* called these wealthy ladies—“Rise up, ye women that are at ease, and hear my voice”⁴¹⁸⁴—that He might prove⁴¹⁸⁵ them first as disciples, and then as assistants and helpers: “Daughters, hear my words in hope; this day of the year cherish the memory of, in labour with hope.” For it was “in labour” that they followed Him, and “with hope” did they minister to Him. On the subject of *parables*, let it suffice that it has been once for all shown that this kind of language⁴¹⁸⁶ was with equal distinctness promised by the Creator. But there is that direct mode of His speaking⁴¹⁸⁷ to the people—“Ye shall hear with the ear, but ye shall not understand”⁴¹⁸⁸—which now claims notice as having furnished to Christ that frequent form of His earnest instruction: “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”⁴¹⁸⁹ Not as if Christ, actuated with a diverse spirit, permitted a hearing which the Creator had refused; but because the exhortation followed the threatening. First came, “Ye shall hear with the ear, but shall not understand;” then followed, “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.” For they wilfully refused to hear, although they had ears. He, however, was teaching them that it was the ears of the heart which were necessary; and with *these* the Creator had said that they would not hear. Therefore it is that He adds by His Christ, “Take heed how ye hear,”⁴¹⁹⁰ and hear not,—meaning, of course, with the hearing of the heart, not of the ear. If you only attach a proper sense to the *Creator's* admonition,⁴¹⁹¹ suitable to the meaning of Him who was rousing the people to hear by the words, “Take heed how ye hear,” it amounted to a menace to such as would not hear. In fact,⁴¹⁹² that most merciful god of yours, who judges not, neither is angry, is minatory. This is proved even by the sentence which immediately



4184 [Isa. xxxii. 9, 10](#). Quoted as usual, from the LXX.: Γυναῖκες πλούσιαι ἀνάστητε, καὶ ἀκούσατε τῆς φωνῆς μου· θυγατέρες ἐν ἐλπίδι εἰσακούσατε λόγους μου. Ἡμέρας ἐνιαυτοῦ μνηΐαν ποιήσασθε ἐν ὀδύνη μετ' ἐλπίδος.

4185 Ostenderet.

4186 Eloquii.

4187 Pronunciatio.

4188 [Isa. vi. 9](#).

4189 [Luke viii. 8](#).

4190 [Luke viii. 18](#).

4191 Pronuntiationi.

4192 Sane: with a touch of irony.

follows: "Whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have."⁴¹⁹³ What shall be given? The increase of faith, or understanding, or even salvation. What shall be taken away? That, of course, which shall be given. By whom shall the gift and the deprivation be made? If by the Creator it be taken away, by Him also shall it be given. If by Marcion's god it be given, by Marcion's god also will it be taken away. Now, for whatever reason He threatens the "deprivation," it will not be the work of a god who knows not how to threaten, because incapable of anger. I am, moreover, astonished when he says that "a candle is not usually hidden,"⁴¹⁹⁴ who had hidden himself—a greater and more needful light—during so long a time; and when he promises that "everything shall be brought out of its secrecy and made manifest,"⁴¹⁹⁵ who hitherto has kept his god in obscurity, waiting (I suppose) until Marcion be born. We now come to the most strenuously-plied argument of all those who call in question the Lord's nativity. They say that He testifies Himself to His not having been born, when He asks, "Who is my mother, and who are my brethren?"⁴¹⁹⁶ In this manner heretics either wrest plain and simple words to any sense they choose by their conjectures, or else they violently resolve by a literal interpretation words which imply a conditional sense and are incapable of a simple solution,⁴¹⁹⁷ as in this passage. We, for our part, say in reply, first, that it could not possibly have been told Him that His mother and His brethren stood without, desiring to see Him, if He had had no mother and no brethren. They must have been known to him who announced them, either some time previously, or then at that very time, when they desired to see Him, or sent Him their message. To this our first position this answer is usually given by the other side. But suppose they sent Him the message for the purpose of tempting Him? Well, but the Scripture does not say so; and inasmuch as it is usual for it to indicate what is done in the way of temptation ("Behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted Him,"⁴¹⁹⁸ again, when inquiring about tribute, the Pharisees came to Him, tempting Him⁴¹⁹⁹), so, when it makes no mention of temptation, it does not admit the interpretation of temptation. However, *although I do not allow this sense*, I may as well ask, by way of a superfluous refutation, for the reasons of the alleged temptation, To what purpose could they have tempted Him by naming His mother and His brethren? If it was to ascertain whether He had been born or not—when was a question raised on this point, which they must resolve by tempting

4193 [Luke viii. 18.](#)

4194 [Luke viii. 16.](#)

4195 [Luke viii. 17.](#)

4196 [Matt. xii. 48.](#)

4197 Rationales. "Quæ voces adhibita ratione sunt interpretandæ."—Oehler.

4198 [Luke x. 25.](#)

4199 [Luke xx. 20.](#)

Him in this way? Who could doubt His having been born, when they⁴²⁰⁰ saw Him before them a veritable man?—whom they had heard call Himself “Son of man?”—of whom they doubted whether He were God or Son of God, from seeing Him, as they did, in the perfect garb of human quality?—supposing Him rather to be a prophet, a great one indeed,⁴²⁰¹ but still one who had been born as man? Even if it had been necessary that He should thus be tried in the investigation of His birth, surely any other proof would have better answered the trial than that to be obtained from mentioning those relatives which it was quite possible for Him, in spite of His true nativity, not at that moment to have had. For tell me now, does a mother live on contemporaneously⁴²⁰² with her sons in every case? Have all sons brothers born for them?⁴²⁰³ May a man rather not have fathers and sisters (living), or even no relatives at all? But there is historical proof⁴²⁰⁴ that at this very time⁴²⁰⁵ a *census* had been taken in Judæa by Sentius Saturninus,⁴²⁰⁶ which might have satisfied their inquiry respecting the family and descent of Christ. Such a method of testing the point had therefore no consistency whatever in it and they “who were standing without” were really “His mother and His brethren.” It remains for us to examine His meaning when He resorts to non-literal⁴²⁰⁷ words, saying “Who is my mother or my brethren?” It seems as if His language amounted



4200 Singular in the original, but (to avoid confusion) here made plural.

4201 In allusion to [Luke vii. 16](#). See above, chap. xviii.

4202 Advivit.

4203 Adgenerantur.

4204 Constat. [Jarvis, *Introd.* p. 204 and p. 536.]

4205 Nunc: i.e., when Christ was told of His mother and brethren.

4206 “C. Sentius Saturninus, a consular, held this census of the whole empire as principal augur, because Augustus determined to impart the sanction of religion to his institution. The agent through whom Saturninus carried out the census in Judæa was the governor Cyrenius, according to Luke, chap. ii.”—Fr. Junius. Tertullian mentions Sentius Saturninus again in *De Pallio*, i. Tertullian’s statement in the text has weighed with Sanclemente and others, who suppose that Saturninus was governor of Judæa at the time of our Lord’s birth, which they place in 747 a.u.c. “It is evident, however,” says Wieseler, “that this argument is far from decisive; for the New Testament itself supplies far better aids for determining this question than the discordant ecclesiastical traditions—different fathers giving different dates, which might be appealed to with equal justice; while Tertullian is even inconsistent with himself, since in his treatise *Adv. Jud.* viii., he gives 751 a.u.c. as the year of our Lord’s birth” (Wieseler’s *Chronological Synopsis* by Venables, p. 99, note 2). This Sentius Saturninus filled the office of governor of Syria, 744–748. For the elaborate argument of Aug. W. Zumpt, by which he defends St. Luke’s chronology, and goes far to prove that Publius Sulpicius Quirinus (or “Cyrenius”) was actually the governor of Syria at the time of the Lord’s birth, the reader may be referred to a careful abridgment by the translator of Wieseler’s work, pp. 129–135.

4207 Non simpliciter. St. Mark rather than St. Luke is quoted in this interrogative sentence.

to a denial of His family and His birth; but it arose actually from the absolute nature of the case, and the conditional sense in which His words were to be explained.⁴²⁰⁸ He was justly indignant, that persons so very near to Him “stood *without*,” while strangers were *within* hanging on His words, especially as they wanted to call Him away from the solemn work He had in hand. He did not so much deny as disavow⁴²⁰⁹ them. And therefore, when to the previous question, “Who is my mother, and who are my brethren?”⁴²¹⁰ He added the answer “None but they who hear my words and do them,” He transferred the names of blood-relationship to others, whom He judged to be more closely related to Him by reason of their faith. Now no one transfers a thing except from him who possesses that which is transferred. If, therefore, He made them “His mother and His brethren” who were not so, how could He deny them these relationships who really had them? Surely only on the condition of their deserts, and not by any disavowal of His near relatives; teaching them by His own actual example,⁴²¹¹ that “whosoever preferred father or mother or brethren to the Word of God, was not a disciple worthy of Him.”⁴²¹² Besides,⁴²¹³ His admission of His mother and His brethren was the more express, from the fact of His unwillingness to acknowledge them. That He adopted others only confirmed those in their relationship to Him whom He refused because of their offence, and for whom He substituted the others, not as being truer relatives, but worthier ones. Finally, it was no great matter if He did prefer to kindred (that) faith which it⁴²¹⁴ did not possess.⁴²¹⁵

4208 Ex condicione rationali. See Oehler’s note, just above, on the word “*rationales*.”

4209 Abdicavit: Rigalt thinks this is *harsh*, and reminds us that at the cross the Lord had not cast away his Mother. [Elucidation VI.]

4210 This is literally from [St. Matthew’s narrative, chap. xii. 48](#).

4211 In semetipso.

4212 [Matt. x. 37](#).

4213 Ceterum.

4214 i.e., the kindred. [N.B. He includes the Mother!]

4215 We have translated Oehler’s text of this passage: “Denique nihil magnum, si fidem sanguini, *quam* non habebat.” For once we venture to differ from that admirable editor (and that although he is supported in his view by Fr. Junius), and prefer the reading of the mss. and the other editions: “Denique nihil magnum, si fidem sanguini, *quem* non habebat.” To which we would give an ironical turn, usual to Tertullian, “After all, it is not to be wondered at if He preferred faith to flesh and blood, which he did not himself possess!”—in allusion to Marcion’s *Docetic* opinion of Christ.

Chapter XX.—Comparison of Christ's Power Over Winds and Waves with Moses' Command of the Waters of the Red Sea and the Jordan. Christ's Power Over Unclean Spirits. The Case of the Legion. The Cure of the Issue of Blood. The Mosaic Uncleaness on This Point Explained.

But “what manner of man is this? for He commandeth even the winds and water!”⁴²¹⁶ Of course He is the new master and proprietor of the elements, now that the Creator is deposed, and excluded from their possession! Nothing of the kind. But the elements own⁴²¹⁷ their own Maker, just as they had been accustomed to obey His servants also. Examine well the Exodus, Marcion; look at the rod of Moses, as it waves His command to the Red Sea, ampler than all the lakes of Judæa. How the sea yawns from its very depths, then fixes itself in two solidified masses, and so, out of the interval between them,⁴²¹⁸ makes a way for the people to pass dry-shod across; again does the same rod vibrate, the sea returns in its strength, and in the concourse of its waters the chivalry of Egypt is engulfed! To that consummation the very winds subserved! Read, too, how that the Jordan was as a sword, to hinder the emigrant nation in their passage across its stream; how that its waters from above stood still, and its current below wholly ceased to run at the bidding of Joshua,⁴²¹⁹ when his priests began to pass over!⁴²²⁰ What will you say to this? If it be your Christ *that is meant above*, he will not be more potent than the servants of the Creator. But I should have been content with the examples I have adduced without addition,⁴²²¹ if a prediction of His present passage on the sea had not preceded Christ's coming. As psalm is, in fact, accomplished by this⁴²²² crossing over the lake. “The Lord,” says the psalmist, “is upon many waters.”⁴²²³ When He



4216 Luke viii. 25.

4217 Agnorant.

4218 Et pari utrinque stupore discriminis fixum.

4219 Josh. iii. 9–17.

4220 This obscure passage is thus read by Oehler, from whom we have translated: “Lege extorri familiæ dirimendæ in transitu ejus Jordanis machæram fuisse, cujus impetum atque decursum plane et Jesus docuerat prophetis transmeantibus stare.” The *machæram* (“sword”) is a metaphor for the *river*. Rigaltius refers to Virgil's figure, *Æneid*, viii. 62, 64, for a justification of the simile. Oehler has altered the reading from the “*ex sortefamiliæ*,” etc., of the mss. to “*extorrifamiliæ*,” etc. The former reading would mean probably: “Read out of the story of the nation how that Jordan was as a sword to hinder their passage across its stream.” The *sorte* (or, as yet another variation has it, “*et sortes*,” “the accounts”) meant the national record, as we have it in the beginning of the book of Joshua. But the passage is almost hopelessly obscure.

4221 Solis.

4222 Istius.

4223 Ps. xxix. 3.

disperses its waves, Habakkuk's words are fulfilled, where he says, "Scattering the waters in His passage."⁴²²⁴ When at His rebuke the sea is calmed, Nahum is also verified: He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry,⁴²²⁵ including the winds indeed, whereby it was disquieted. With what evidence would you have my Christ vindicated? Shall it come from the examples, or from the prophecies, of the Creator? You suppose that He is predicted as a military and armed warrior,⁴²²⁶ instead of one who in a figurative and allegorical sense was to wage a spiritual warfare against spiritual enemies, in spiritual campaigns, and with spiritual weapons: come now, when in one man alone you discover a multitude of demons calling itself *Legion*,⁴²²⁷ of course comprised of spirits, you should learn that Christ also must be understood to be an exterminator of spiritual foes, who wields spiritual arms and fights in spiritual strife; and that it was none other than He,⁴²²⁸ who now had to contend with even a legion of demons. Therefore it is of such a war as this that the Psalm may evidently have spoken: "The Lord is strong, The Lord is mighty in battle."⁴²²⁹ For with the last enemy death did He fight, and through the trophy of the cross He triumphed. Now of what God did the Legion testify that Jesus was the Son?⁴²³⁰ No doubt, of that God whose torments and abyss they knew and dreaded. It seems impossible for them to have remained up to this time in ignorance of what the power of the recent and unknown god was working in the world, because it is very unlikely that the Creator was ignorant thereof. For if He had been at any time ignorant that there was another god above Himself, He had by this time at all events discovered that there was one at work⁴²³¹ below His heaven. Now, what their Lord had discovered had by this time become notorious to His entire family within the same world and the same circuit of heaven, in which the strange deity dwelt and acted.⁴²³² As therefore both the Creator and His creatures⁴²³³ must have had knowledge of him, if he had been in existence, so, inasmuch as he had no existence, the demons really knew none other than the Christ of their own God. They do not ask of the strange god, what they recollected they must beg of the Creator—not to be plunged into the Creator's abyss. They at last had their request granted. On what ground? Because they had lied? Because they had proclaimed Him to be

4224 [Hab. iii. 10](#), according to the Septuagint.

4225 [Nah. i. 4](#).

4226 See above, book iii. chap. xiii.

4227 [Luke viii. 30](#).

4228 *Atque ita ipsum esse.*

4229 [Ps. xxiv. 8](#).

4230 [Luke viii. 28](#).

4231 *Agentem.*

4232 *Conversaretur.*

4233 *Substantiæ*: including these demons.

the Son of a ruthless God? And what sort of god will that be who helped the lying, and upheld his detractors? However, *no need of this thought*, for,⁴²³⁴ inasmuch as they had not lied, inasmuch as they had acknowledged that the God of the abyss was also their God, so did He actually Himself affirm that He was the same whom these demons acknowledged—Jesus, the Judge and Son of the avenging God. Now, behold an inkling⁴²³⁵ of the Creator's failings⁴²³⁶ and infirmities in Christ; for I on my side⁴²³⁷ mean to impute to Him ignorance. Allow me some indulgence in my effort against the heretic. Jesus is touched by the woman who had an issue of blood,⁴²³⁸ He knew not by whom. "Who touched me?" He asks, when His disciples alleged an excuse. He even persists in His assertion of ignorance: "Somebody hath touched me," He says, and advances some proof: "For I perceive that virtue is gone out of me." What says our heretic? Could *Christ* have known the person? And why did He speak as if He were ignorant? Why? Surely it was to challenge her faith, and to try her fear. Precisely as He had once questioned Adam, as if in ignorance: Adam, where art thou?"⁴²³⁹ Thus you have both the Creator excused in the same way as Christ, and Christ acting similarly to⁴²⁴⁰ the Creator. But in this case He acted as an adversary of the law; and therefore, as the law forbids contact with a woman with an issue,⁴²⁴¹ He desired not only that this woman should touch Him, but that He should heal her.⁴²⁴² Here, then, is a God who is not merciful by nature, but in hostility! Yet, if we find that such was the merit of this woman's faith, that He said unto her, Thy faith hath saved thee,⁴²⁴³ what are you, that you should detect an hostility to the law in that act, which the Lord Himself shows us to have been done as a reward of faith? But will you have it that this faith of the woman consisted in the contempt which she had acquired for the law? Who can suppose, that a woman who had been, hitherto unconscious of any God, uninitiated as yet in any new law, should violently infringe that law by which she was up to this time bound? On what faith, indeed, was such an infringement hazarded? In what God believing? Whom despising? The Creator? Her touch at least was an act of faith. And if of faith in the Creator, how could she have violated His law,⁴²⁴⁴ when

4234 Sed enim: the ἀλλὰ γὰρ of the Greek.

4235 Aliquid.

4236 Pusillitibus.

4237 Ego.

4238 [Luke viii. 43–46.](#)

4239 See above, book iii. chap. xxv.

4240 Adæquatum: on a par with.

4241 [Lev. xv. 19.](#)

4242 A Marcionite hypothesis.

4243 [Luke viii. 48.](#)

4244 Ecquomodo legem ejus irrupit.

she was ignorant of any other God? Whatever her infringement of the law amounted to, it proceeded from and was proportionate to her faith in the Creator. But how can these two things be compatible? That she violated the law, and violated it in faith, which ought to have restrained her from such violation? I will tell you how her faith was this above all:⁴²⁴⁵ it made her believe that her God preferred mercy even to sacrifice; she was certain that her God was working in Christ; she touched Him, therefore, nor as a holy man simply, nor as a prophet, whom she knew to be capable of contamination by reason of his human nature, but as very God, whom she assumed to be beyond all possibility of pollution by any uncleanness.⁴²⁴⁶ She therefore, not without reason,⁴²⁴⁷ interpreted for herself the law, as meaning that such things as are susceptible of defilement become defiled, but not so God, whom she knew for certain to be in Christ. But she recollected this also, that what came under the prohibition of the law⁴²⁴⁸ was that ordinary and usual issue of blood which proceeds from natural functions every month, and in childbirth, not that which was the result of disordered health. Her case, however, was one of long abounding⁴²⁴⁹ ill health, for which she knew that the succour of God's mercy was needed, and not the *natural* relief of time. And thus she may evidently be regarded as having discerned⁴²⁵⁰ the law, instead of breaking it. This will prove to be the faith which was to confer intelligence likewise. "If ye will not believe," says (the prophet), "ye shall not understand."⁴²⁵¹ When Christ approved of the faith of this woman, which simply rested in the Creator, He declared by His answer to her,⁴²⁵² that He was Himself the divine object of the faith of which He approved. Nor can I overlook the fact that His garment, by being touched, demonstrated also the truth of His body; for of course⁴²⁵³ it was a body, and not a phantom, which the garment clothed.⁴²⁵⁴ This indeed is not our point now; but the remark has a natural bearing on the question we are discussing. For if it were not a veritable body, but only a fantastic one, it could not for certain have received contamination, as being an unsubstantial thing.⁴²⁵⁵ He therefore, who, by reason of this vacuity of his substance, was incapable of contamination, how could he possibly have

4245 Primo.

4246 Spurcitia.

4247 Non temere.

4248 In lege taxari.

4249 Illa autem redundavit.

4250 Distinxisse.

4251 [Isa. vii. 9.](#)

4252 [Luke viii. 48.](#)

4253 Utique.

4254 Epiphanius, in *Hæres. xlii. Refut.* 14, has the same remark.

4255 Qua res vacua.

desired this touch?⁴²⁵⁶ As an adversary of the law, his conduct was deceitful, for he was not susceptible of a real pollution. _____

4256 In allusion to the Marcionite hypothesis mentioned above.

Chapter XXI.—Christ's Connection with the Creator Shown from Several Incidents in the Old Testament, Compared with St. Luke's Narrative of the Mission of the Disciples. The Feeding of the Multitude. The Confession of St. Peter. Being Ashamed of Christ. This Shame is Only Possible of the True Christ. Marcionite Pretensions Absurd.

He sends forth His disciples to preach the kingdom of God.⁴²⁵⁷ Does He here say of what God? He forbids their taking anything for their journey, by way of either food or raiment. Who would have given such a commandment as this, but He who feeds the ravens and clothes⁴²⁵⁸ the flowers of the field? Who anciently enjoined for the treading ox an unmuzzled mouth,⁴²⁵⁹ that he might be at liberty to gather his fodder from his labour, on the principle that the worker is worthy of his hire?⁴²⁶⁰ Marcion may expunge such precepts, but no matter, provided the sense of them survives. But when He charges them to shake off the dust of their feet against such as should refuse to receive them, He also bids that this be done as a *witness*. Now no one bears witness except in a case which is decided by judicial process; and whoever orders inhuman conduct to be submitted to the trial by testimony,⁴²⁶¹ does really threaten as a judge. Again, that it was no new god which recommended⁴²⁶² by Christ, was clearly attested by the opinion of all men, because some maintained to Herod that Jesus was the Christ; others, that He was John; some, that He was Elias; and others, that He was one of the old prophets.⁴²⁶³ Now, whosoever of all these He might have been, He certainly was not raised up for the purpose of announcing another god after His resurrection. He feeds the multitude in the desert place;⁴²⁶⁴ this, you must know⁴²⁶⁵ was after the manner of the Old Testament.⁴²⁶⁶ Or else,⁴²⁶⁷ if there was not the same grandeur, it follows that He is now inferior to the Creator. For *He*, not for one day, but during forty years, not on the inferior aliment of bread and fish, but with the manna of heaven, supported the lives⁴²⁶⁸



4257 [Luke ix. 1–6.](#)

4258 Vestit.

4259 Libertatem oris.

4260 [Deut. xxv. 4.](#)

4261 In testationem redigi.

4262 Probatum.

4263 [Luke ix. 7, 8.](#)

4264 [Luke ix. 10–17.](#)

4265 Scilicet.

4266 De pristino more.

4267 Aut.

4268 Protelavit.

of not five thousand, but of six hundred thousand human beings. However, such was the greatness of *His miracle*, that He willed the slender supply of food, not only to be enough, but even to prove superabundant;⁴²⁶⁹ and herein He followed the ancient precedent. For in like manner, during the famine in Elijah's time, the scanty and final meal of the widow of Sarepta was multiplied⁴²⁷⁰ by the blessing of the prophet throughout the period of the famine. You have the third book of the Kings.⁴²⁷¹ If you also turn to the fourth book, you will discover all this conduct⁴²⁷² of Christ pursued by that man of God, who ordered ten⁴²⁷³ barley loaves which had been given him to be distributed among the people; and when his servitor, after contrasting the large number of the persons with the small supply of the food, answered, "What, shall I set this before a hundred men?" he said again, "Give them, and they shall eat: for thus saith the Lord, They shall eat, and shall leave thereof, according to the word of the Lord."⁴²⁷⁴ O Christ, even in Thy novelties Thou art old! Accordingly, when Peter, who had been an eye-witness of the miracle, and had compared it with the ancient precedents, and had discovered in them prophetic intimations of what should one day come to pass, answered (as the mouthpiece of them all) the Lord's inquiry, "Whom say ye that I am?"⁴²⁷⁵ in the words, "Thou art the Christ," he could not but have perceived that He was that Christ, beside whom he knew of none else in the Scriptures, and whom he was now surveying⁴²⁷⁶ in His wonderful deeds. This conclusion He even Himself confirms by thus far bearing with it, nay, even enjoining silence respecting it.⁴²⁷⁷ For if Peter was unable to acknowledge Him to be any other than the Creator's *Christ*, while He commanded them "to tell no man that saying," surely⁴²⁷⁸ He was unwilling to have the conclusion promulged which Peter had drawn. No doubt of that,⁴²⁷⁹ you say; but as Peter's conclusion was a wrong one, therefore He was unwilling to have a lie disseminated. It was, however, a different reason which He assigned for the silence, even because "the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and scribes, and priests, and be slain, and be raised

4269 Exuberare.

4270 Redundaverant.

4271 [1 Kings xvii. 7–16.](#)

4272 Ordinem.

4273 I have no doubt that *ten* was the word written by our author; for some Greek copies read δέκα, and Ambrose in his *Hexaëmeron*, book vi. chap. ii., mentions the same number (Fr. Junius).

4274 [2 Kings iv. 42–44.](#)

4275 [Luke ix. 20.](#)

4276 Recensebat.

4277 [Luke ix. 21.](#)

4278 Utique.

4279 Immo.

again the third day.”⁴²⁸⁰ Now, inasmuch as these *sufferings* were actually foretold for the Creator’s Christ (as we shall fully show in the proper place⁴²⁸¹), so by this application of them to His own case⁴²⁸² does He prove that it is He Himself of whom they were predicted. At all events, even if they had not been predicted, the reason which He alleged for imposing silence (on the disciples) was such as made it clear enough that Peter had made no mistake, that reason being the necessity of His undergoing these sufferings. “Whosoever,” says He, “will save his life, shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.”⁴²⁸³ Surely⁴²⁸⁴ it is the Son of man⁴²⁸⁵ who uttered this sentence. Look carefully, then, along with the king of Babylon, into his burning fiery furnace, and there you will discover one “like the Son of man” (for He was not yet really Son of man, because not yet born of man), even as early as then⁴²⁸⁶ appointing issues such as these. He saved the lives of the three brethren,⁴²⁸⁷ who had agreed to lose them for God’s sake; but He destroyed those of the Chaldæans, when they had preferred to save them by the means of their idolatry. Where is that novelty, which you pretend⁴²⁸⁸ in a doctrine which possesses these ancient proofs? But all the predictions have been fulfilled⁴²⁸⁹ concerning martyrdoms which were to happen, and were to receive the recompenses of their reward from God. “See,” says Isaiah, “how the righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart; and just men are taken away, and no man considereth.”⁴²⁹⁰ When does this more frequently happen than in the persecution of His saints? This, indeed, is no ordinary matter,⁴²⁹¹ no common casualty of the law of nature; but it is that illustrious devotion, that fighting for the faith, wherein whosoever loses his life for God saves it, so that you may here again recognize the Judge who recompenses the evil gain of life with its destruction, and the good loss thereof with its salvation. It is, however, a jealous God whom He here presents to me; one who returns evil for evil. “For whosoever,” says He, “shall be ashamed of me, of him will I also be ashamed.”⁴²⁹² Now to none but my

4280 [Luke ix. 22.](#)

4281 See below, chaps. xl.–xl.iii.

4282 Sic quoque.

4283 [Luke ix. 24.](#)

4284 Certe.

4285 Compare above, chap. x., towards the end.

4286 Jam tunc.

4287 [Dan. iii. 25, 26.](#)

4288 Ista.

4289 Decurrerunt.

4290 [Isa. lvii. i.](#)

4291 We have, by understanding *res*, treated these adjectives as nouns. Rigalt. applies them to the *doctrina* of the sentence just previous. Perhaps, however, “*persecutione*” is the noun.

4292 [Luke ix. 26.](#)

Christ can be assigned the occasion⁴²⁹³ of such a shame as this. His whole course⁴²⁹⁴ was so exposed to shame as to open a way for even the taunts of heretics, declaiming⁴²⁹⁵ with all the bitterness in their power against the utter disgrace⁴²⁹⁶ of His birth and bringing-up, and the unworthiness of His very flesh.⁴²⁹⁷ But how can that Christ of yours be liable to a shame, which it is impossible for him to experience? Since he was never condensed⁴²⁹⁸ into human flesh in the womb of a woman, although a virgin; never grew from human seed, although only after the law of corporeal substance, from the fluids⁴²⁹⁹ of a woman; was never deemed flesh before shaped in the womb; never called *fœtus*⁴³⁰⁰ after such shaping; was never delivered from a ten months' writhing in the womb;⁴³⁰¹ was never shed forth upon the ground, amidst the sudden pains of parturition, with the unclean issue which flows at such a time through the sewerage of the body, forthwith to inaugurate the light⁴³⁰² of life with tears, and with that primal wound which severs the child from her who bears him;⁴³⁰³ never received the copious ablution, nor the meditation of salt and honey;⁴³⁰⁴ nor did he

4293 Materia conveniat.

4294 Ordo.

4295 Perorantibus.

4296 Fœditatem.

4297 Ipsius etiam carnis indignitatem; because His flesh, being capable of suffering and subject to death, seemed to them unworthy of God. So *Adv. Judæos*, chap. xiv., he says: "Primo sordidis indutus est, id est carnis passibilis et mortalis indignitate." Or His "indignity" may have been εἶδος οὐκ ἄξιον τυραννίδος, His "*unkingly aspect*" (as Origen expresses it, *Contra Celsum*, 6); His "form of a servant," or slave, as St. Paul says. See also Tertullian's *De Patientia*, iii. (Rigalt.)

4298 Coagulatur. [Job x. 10.]

4299 Ex feminæ humore.

4300 Pecus. Julius Firmicus, iii. 1, uses the word in the same way: "*Pecus* intra viscera matris artuatim concisum a medicis proferetur." [Jul. Firmicus Maternus, floruit *circa*, a.d. 340.]

4301 Such is probably the meaning of "non decem mensium cruciatu deliberatus." For such is the situation of the infant in the womb, that it seems to writhe (*cruciari*) all curved and contracted (Rigalt.). Latinus read *delibratus* instead of *deliberatus*, which means, "suspended or poised in the womb as in a scale." This has my approbation. I would compare *De Carne Christi*, chap. iv. (Fr. Junius). Oehler reads *deliberatus* in the sense of *liberatus*.

4302 Statim lucem lacrimis auspicatus.

4303 Primo retinaculi sui vulnere: the cutting of the umbilical nerve. [Contrast Jer. Taylor, on the *Nativity*, Opp. I. p. 34.]

4304 Nec sale ac melle medicatus. Of this application in the case of a recent childbirth we know nothing; it seems to have been meant for the skin. See Pliny, in his *Hist. Nat.* xxii. 25.

initiate a shroud with swaddling clothes;⁴³⁰⁵ nor afterwards did he ever wallow⁴³⁰⁶ in his own uncleanness, in his mother's lap; nibbling at her breast; long an infant; gradually⁴³⁰⁷ a boy; by slow degrees⁴³⁰⁸ a man.⁴³⁰⁹ But he was revealed⁴³¹⁰ from heaven, full-grown at once, at once complete; immediately Christ; simply spirit, and power, and god. But as withal he was not true, because not visible; therefore he was no object to be ashamed of from the curse of the cross, the real endurance⁴³¹¹ of which he escaped, because wanting in bodily substance. Never, therefore, could he have said, "Whosoever shall be ashamed of me." But as for our Christ, He could do no otherwise than make such a declaration;⁴³¹² "made" by the Father "a little lower than the angels,"⁴³¹³ "a worm and no man, a reproach of men, and despised of the people,"⁴³¹⁴ seeing that it was His will that "with His stripes we should be healed,"⁴³¹⁵ that by His humiliation our salvation should be established. And justly did He humble Himself⁴³¹⁶ for His own creature man, for the image and likeness of Himself, and not of another, in order that man, since he had not felt ashamed when bowing down to a stone or a stock, might with similar courage give satisfaction to God for the shamelessness of his idolatry, by displaying an equal degree of shamelessness in his faith, in not being ashamed of Christ. Now, Marcion, which of these courses is better suited to your Christ, in respect of a meritorious shame?⁴³¹⁷ Plainly, you ought yourself to blush with shame for having given him a fictitious existence.⁴³¹⁸

4305 Nec pannis jam sepulturæ involucrium initiatus.

4306 Volutatus per immunditias.

4307 Vix.

4308 Tarde.

4309 Expositus.

4310 i.e., he never passed through stages like these.

4311 Veritate.

4312 Debuit pronuntiasse.

4313 [Ps. viii. 6.](#)

4314 [Ps. xxii. 6.](#)

4315 [Isa. liii. 5.](#)

4316 Se deposuit.

4317 Ad meritum confusionis.

4318 Quod illum finxisti.

Chapter XXII.—The Same Conclusion Supported by the Transfiguration. Marcion Inconsistent in Associating with Christ in Glory Two Such Eminent Servants of the Creator as Moses and Elijah. St. Peter's Ignorance Accounted for on Montanist Principle.

You ought to be very much ashamed of yourself on this account too, for permitting him to appear on the retired mountain in the company of Moses and Elias,⁴³¹⁹ whom he had come to destroy. This, to be sure,⁴³²⁰ was what he wished to be understood as the meaning of that voice from heaven: "This is my beloved Son, hear Him"⁴³²¹—*Him*, that is, not Moses or Elias any longer. The voice alone, therefore, was enough, without the display of Moses and Elias; for, by expressly mentioning whom they were to hear, he must have forbidden all⁴³²² others from being heard. Or else, did he mean that Isaiah and Jeremiah and the others whom he did not exhibit were to be heard, since he prohibited those whom he did display? Now, even if their presence was necessary, they surely should not be represented as conversing together, which is a sign of familiarity; nor as associated in glory with him, for this indicates respect and graciousness; but they should be shown in some slough⁴³²³ as a sure token of their ruin, or even in that darkness of the Creator which Christ was sent to disperse, far removed from the glory of Him who was about to sever their words and writings from His gospel. This, then, is the way⁴³²⁴ how he demonstrates them to be aliens,⁴³²⁵ even by keeping them in his own company! This is how he shows they ought to be relinquished: he associates them with himself instead! This is how he destroys them: he irradiates them with his glory! How would their own Christ act? I suppose He would have imitated the frowardness (of heresy),⁴³²⁶ and revealed them just as Marcion's Christ was bound to do, or at least as having with Him any others rather than His own prophets! But what could so well befit the Creator's Christ, as to manifest Him in the company of His own foreannouncers?⁴³²⁷—to let Him be seen with those to whom He had appeared in revelations?—to let Him be speaking with those who had spoken of Him?—to share His glory with those by whom He used to be called the Lord of glory; even with those chief servants of His, one of



4319 [Luke ix. 28–36.](#)

4320 Scilicet, in ironical allusion to a Marcionite opinion.

4321 [Luke ix. 35.](#)

4322 Quoscunque.

4323 In sordibus aliquibus.

4324 Sic.

4325 To belong to another god.

4326 Secundum perversitatem.

4327 Prædicatores.

whom was once the moulder⁴³²⁸ of His people, the other afterwards the reformer⁴³²⁹ thereof; one the initiator of the Old Testament, the other the consummator⁴³³⁰ of the New? Well therefore does Peter, when recognizing the companions of his Christ in their indissoluble connection with Him, suggest an expedient: “It is good for us to be here” (good: that evidently means to be where Moses and Elias are); “and let us make three tabernacles, one for Thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. But he knew not what he said.”⁴³³¹ How knew not? Was his ignorance the result of simple error? Or was it on the principle which we maintain⁴³³² in the cause of the new prophecy,⁴³³³ that to grace ecstasy or rapture⁴³³⁴ is incident. For when a man is rapt in the Spirit, especially when he beholds the glory of God, or when God speaks through him, he necessarily loses his sensation,⁴³³⁵ because he is overshadowed with the power of God,—a point concerning which there is a question between us and the carnally-minded.⁴³³⁶ Now, it is no difficult matter to prove the rapture⁴³³⁷ of Peter. For how could he have known Moses and Elias, except (by being) in the Spirit? People could not have had their images, or statues, or likenesses; for that the law forbade. How, if it were not that he had seen them in the Spirit? And therefore, because it was in the Spirit that he had now spoken, and not in his natural senses, he could not know what he had said. But if, on the other hand,⁴³³⁸ he was thus ignorant, because he erroneously

4328 Informator, Moses, as having organized the nation.

4329 Reformer, Elias, the great prophet.

4330 It was a primitive opinion in the Church that Elijah was to come, with Enoch, at the end of the world. See *De Anima*, chap. xxxv. and l.; also Irenæus, *De Hæres.* v. 5. [Vol. I. 530.]

4331 [Luke ix. 33.](#)

4332 This Tertullian seems to have done in his treatise *De Ecstasi*, which is mentioned by St. Jerome—see his *Catalogus Scriptt. Eccles.* (in Tertulliano); and by Nicephorus, *Hist. Eccles.* iv. 22, 34. On this subject of ecstasy, Tertullian has some observations in *De Anima*, chap. xxi. and xlv. (Rigalt. and Oehler.)

4333 [Elucidation VII.]

4334 Amentiam.

4335 Excidat sensu.

4336 He calls those the carnally-minded (“psychicos”) who thought that ecstatic raptures and revelations had ceased in the church. The term arises from a perverse application of [1 Cor. ii. 14](#): ψυχικός δὲ ἄνθρωπος οὐ δέχεται τὰ τοῦ Πνεύματος τοῦ Θεοῦ. In opposition to the wild fanaticism of Montanus, into which Tertullian strangely fell, the Catholics believed that the true prophets, who were filled with the Spirit of God, discharged their prophetic functions with a quiet and tranquil mind. See the anonymous author, *Contra Cataphrygas*, in Eusebius, *Hist. Eccl.* v. 17; Epiphanius, *Hæres.* 48. See also Routh, *Rel. Sacræ*, i. p. 100; and Bp. Kaye, *On the Writings of Tertullian*, edit. 3, pp. 27–36. (Munter’s *Primord. Eccles. Afric.* p. 138, quoted by Oehler.)

4337 Amentiam.

4338 Ceterum.

supposed that (Jesus) was their Christ, it is then evident that Peter, when previously asked by Christ, "Whom they thought Him to be," meant the Creator's Christ, when he answered, "Thou art the Christ;" because if he had been then aware that He belonged to the rival god, he would not have made a mistake here. But if he was in error here because of his previous erroneous opinion,⁴³³⁹ then you may be sure that up to that very day no new divinity had been revealed by Christ, and that Peter had so far made no mistake, because hitherto Christ had revealed nothing of the kind; and that Christ accordingly was not to be regarded as belonging to any other than the Creator, whose entire dispensation⁴³⁴⁰ he, in fact, here described. He selects from His disciples three witnesses of the impending vision and voice. And this is just the way of the Creator. "In the mouth of three witnesses," says He, "shall every word be established."⁴³⁴¹ He withdraws to a mountain. In the nature of the place I see much meaning. For the Creator had originally formed His ancient people on a mountain both with visible glory and His voice. It was only right that the New Testament should be attested⁴³⁴² on such an elevated spot⁴³⁴³ as that whereon the Old Testament had been composed;⁴³⁴⁴ under a like covering of cloud also, which nobody will doubt, was condensed out of the Creator's air. Unless, indeed, he⁴³⁴⁵ had brought down his own clouds thither, because he had himself forced his way through the Creator's heaven;⁴³⁴⁶ or else it was only a precarious cloud,⁴³⁴⁷ as it were, of the Creator which he used. On the present (as also on the former)⁴³⁴⁸ occasion, therefore, the cloud was not silent; but there was the accustomed voice from heaven, and the Father's testimony to the Son; precisely as in the first Psalm He had said, "Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee."⁴³⁴⁹ By the mouth of Isaiah also He had asked concerning Him, "Who is there among you that feareth God? Let him hear the voice of His Son."⁴³⁵⁰ When therefore He here presents Him with the words, "This is my (beloved) Son," this clause is of course understood, "whom I have promised." For if He



4339 According to the hypothesis.

4340 Totum ordinem, in the three periods represented by Moses, and Elijah, and Christ.

4341 Compare [Deut. xix. 15](#) with [Luke ix. 28](#).

4342 Consignari.

4343 In eo suggestu.

4344 Conscriptum fuerat.

4345 Marcion's god.

4346 Compare above, book i. chap. 15, and book iv. chap. 7.

4347 Precario. This word is used in book v. chap. xii. to describe the *transitoriness* of the Creator's paradise and world.

4348 Nec nunc.

4349 [Ps. ii. 7](#).

4350 [Isa. l. 10](#), according to the Septuagint.

once promised, and then afterwards says, “This is He,” it is suitable conduct for one who accomplishes His purpose⁴³⁵¹ that He should utter His voice in proof of the promise which He had formerly made; but unsuitable in one who is amenable to the retort, Can you, indeed, have a right to say, “This is my son,” concerning whom you have given us no previous information,⁴³⁵² any more than you have favoured us with a revelation about your own prior existence? “Hear ye Him,” therefore, whom from the beginning (the Creator) had declared entitled to be heard in the name of a prophet, since it was as a prophet that He had to be regarded by the people. “A prophet,” says Moses, “shall the Lord your God raise up unto you, of your sons” (that is, of course, after a carnal descent⁴³⁵³); “unto Him shall ye hearken, as unto me.”⁴³⁵⁴ “Every one who will not hearken unto Him, his soul⁴³⁵⁵ shall be cut off from amongst his people.”⁴³⁵⁶ So also Isaiah: “Who is there among you that feareth God? Let him hear the voice of His Son.”⁴³⁵⁷ This voice the Father was going Himself to recommend. For, says he,⁴³⁵⁸ He establishes the words of His Son, when He says, “This is my beloved Son, hear ye Him.” Therefore, even if there be made a transfer of the obedient “hearing” from Moses and Elias to⁴³⁵⁹ Christ, it is still not from another God, or to another Christ; but from⁴³⁶⁰ the Creator to His Christ, in consequence of the departure of the old covenant and the supervening of the new. “Not an ambassador, nor an angel, but He Himself,” says Isaiah, “shall save them;”⁴³⁶¹ for it is He Himself who is now declaring and fulfilling the law and the prophets. The Father gave to the Son new disciples,⁴³⁶² after that Moses and Elias

4351 Ejus est exhibentis.

4352 Non præmisisti. Oehler suggests *promisisti*, “have given us no promise.”

4353 Censum: Some read *sensum*, “sense.”

4354 [Deut. xviii. 15.](#)

4355 Anima: life.

4356 [Deut. xviii. 19.](#)

4357 [Isa. l. 10.](#)

4358 Tertullian, by introducing this statement with an “*inquit*,” seems to make a quotation of it; but it is only a comment on the actual quotations. Tertullian’s invariable object in this argument is to match some event or word pertaining to the Christ of the New Testament with some declaration of the Old Testament. In this instance the approving words of God upon the mount are in [Heb. i. 5](#) applied to the Son, while in [Ps. ii. 7](#) the Son applies them to Himself. Compare the *Adversus Praxean*, chap. xix. (Fr. Junius and Oehler). It is, however, more likely that Tertullian really means to quote [Isa. xlv. 26](#), “that confirmeth the word of His servant,” which Tertullian reads, “Sistens verba filii sui,” the Septuagint being, *Καὶ ἰστώων ῥήμα παιδὸς αὐτοῦ.*

4359 In Christo. *In* with an ablative is often used by our author for *in* with an accusative.

4360 Or perhaps “by the Creator.”

4361 [Isa. lxiii. 9](#), according to the Septuagint; only he reads *faciet* for aorist ἔσωσεν.

4362 A Marcionite position.

had been exhibited along with Him in the honour of His glory, and had then been dismissed as having fully discharged their duty and office, for the express purpose of affirming for Marcion's information the fact that Moses and Elias had a share in even the glory of Christ. But we have the entire structure⁴³⁶³ of this same vision in Habakkuk also, where the Spirit in the person of some⁴³⁶⁴ of the apostles says, "O Lord, I have heard Thy speech, and was afraid." What speech was this, other than the words of the voice from heaven, This is my beloved Son, hear ye Him? "I considered thy works, and was astonished." When could this have better happened than when Peter, on seeing His glory, knew not what he was saying? "In the midst of the two Thou shalt be known"—even Moses and Elias.⁴³⁶⁵ These likewise did Zechariah see under the figure of the two olive trees and olive branches.⁴³⁶⁶ For these are they of whom he says, "They are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth." And again Habakkuk says, "His glory covered the heavens" (that is, with that cloud), "and His splendour shall be like the light—even the light, wherewith His very raiment glistened." And if we would make mention of⁴³⁶⁷ the promise to Moses, we shall find it accomplished here. For when Moses desired to see the Lord, saying, "If therefore I have found grace in Thy sight, manifest Thyself to me, that I may see Thee distinctly,"⁴³⁶⁸ the sight which he desired to have was of that condition which he was to assume as man, and which as a prophet he knew was to occur. Respecting the *face* of God, however, he had already heard, "No man shall see me, and live." "This thing," said He, "which thou hast spoken, will I do unto thee." Then Moses said, "Show me Thy glory." And the Lord, with like reference to the future, replied, "I will pass before thee in my glory," etc. Then at the last He says, "And then thou shalt see my back."⁴³⁶⁹ Not loins, or calves of the legs, did he want to behold, but the glory which was to be revealed in the latter days.⁴³⁷⁰ He had promised that He would make Himself thus face to face visible to him, when He said to Aaron, "If there shall be a prophet among you, I will make myself known to him by vision, and by vision will I speak with him; but not so is my manner to Moses; with *him* will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently" (that is to say, in the form of man which He was to assume), "and not in dark



4363 Habitum.

4364 Interdum.

4365 [Hab. iii. 2](#), according to the Septuagint. St. Augustine similarly applied this passage, *De Civit. Dei*, xviii. 32.

4366 [Zech. iv. 3, 14](#).

4367 Commemoremur: be reminded, or call to mind.

4368 Cognoscenter: γνωστῶς, "so as to know Thee."

4369 See [Ex. xxxiii. 13–23](#).

4370 *Posterioribus temporibus*. [The awful ribaldry of Voltaire upon this glorious revelation is based upon the Vulgate reading of [Exod. xxxiii. 23](#), needlessly transferred to our Version, but corrected by the late Revisers.]

speeches.”⁴³⁷¹ Now, although Marcion has denied⁴³⁷² that he is here represented as speaking with the Lord, but only as standing, yet, inasmuch as he stood “mouth to mouth,” he must also have stood “face to face” *with him*, to use his words,⁴³⁷³ not far from him, in His very glory—not to say,⁴³⁷⁴ in His presence. And with this glory he went away enlightened from Christ, just as he used to do from the Creator; as *then* to dazzle the eyes of the children of Israel, so *now* to smite those of the blinded Marcion, who has failed to see how this argument also makes against him.

4371 [Num. xii. 6–8.](#)

4372 Noluit.

4373 It is difficult to see what this *inquit* means.

4374 Nedum.

Chapter XXIII.—Impossible that Marcion's Christ Should Reprove the Faithless Generation. Such Loving Consideration for Infants as the True Christ Was Apt to Shew, Also Impossible for the Other. On the Three Different Characters Confronted and Instructed by Christ in Samaria.

I take on myself the character⁴³⁷⁵ of Israel. Let Marcion's Christ stand forth, and exclaim, "O faithless generation!⁴³⁷⁶ how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you?"⁴³⁷⁷ He will immediately have to submit to this remonstrance from me: "Whoever you are, O stranger,⁴³⁷⁸ first tell us who you are, from whom you come, and what right you have over us. Thus far, all you possess⁴³⁷⁹ belongs to the Creator. Of course, if you come from Him, and are acting for Him, we will bear your reproof. But if you come from some other god, I should wish you to tell us what you have ever committed to us belonging to yourself,⁴³⁸⁰ which it was our duty to believe, seeing that you are upbraiding us with 'faithlessness,' who have never yet revealed to us your own self. How long ago⁴³⁸¹ did you begin to treat with us, that you should be complaining of the delay? On what points have you borne with us, that you should adduce⁴³⁸² your patience? Like Æsop's ass, you are just come from the well,⁴³⁸³ and are filling every place with your braying." I assume, besides,⁴³⁸⁴ the person of the disciple, against whom he has inveighed:⁴³⁸⁵ "O perverse nation! how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you?" This outburst of his I might, of course, retort upon him most justly in such words as these: "Whoever you are, O stranger, first tell us who you are, from whom you come, what right you have over us. Thus far, I suppose, you belong to the Creator, and so we have followed you, recognising in you all things which are His. Now, if you come from Him, we will bear your reproof. If, however, you are acting for another, prythee tell us what you have ever conferred upon us that is simply your own, which it had become our duty to believe, seeing that you reproach us with 'faithlessness,' although up to this moment you show us no credentials. How long since did you begin to plead with us,

4375 Personam: "I personate Israel."

4376 Genitura.

4377 [Luke ix. 41.](#)

4378 ἐπερχόμενε. The true Christ is ὁ ἐρχόμενος.

4379 Totum apud te.

4380 De tuo commisisti.

4381 Quam olim.

4382 Imputes.

4383 This fable is not extant (Oehler).

4384 Adhuc.

4385 Insiliit.

that you are charging us with delay? Wherein have you borne with us, that you should even boast of your patience? The ass has only just arrived from Æsop's well, and he is already braying." Now who would not thus have rebutted the unfairness of the rebuke, if he had supposed its author to belong to him who had had no right as yet to complain? Except that not even He⁴³⁸⁶ would have inveighed against them, if He had not dwelt among them of old in the law and by the prophets, and with mighty deeds and many mercies, and had always experienced them to be "faithless." But, behold, Christ takes⁴³⁸⁷ infants, and teaches how all ought to be like them, if they ever wish to be greater.⁴³⁸⁸ The Creator, on the contrary,⁴³⁸⁹ let loose bears against children, in order to avenge His prophet Elisha, who had been mocked by them.⁴³⁹⁰ This antithesis is impudent enough, since it throws together⁴³⁹¹ things so different as infants⁴³⁹² and children,⁴³⁹³—an age still innocent, and one already capable of discretion—able to mock, if not to blaspheme. As therefore God is a just God, He spared not impious children, exacting as He does honour for every time of life, and especially, of course, from youth. And as God is good, He so loves infants as to have blessed the midwives in Egypt, when they protected the infants of the Hebrews⁴³⁹⁴ which were in peril from Pharaoh's command.⁴³⁹⁵ Christ therefore shares this kindness with the Creator. As indeed for Marcion's god, who is an enemy to marriage, how can he possibly seem to be a lover of little children, which are simply the issue of marriage? He who hates the seed must needs also detest the fruit. Yea, he ought to be deemed more ruthless than the king of Egypt.⁴³⁹⁶ For whereas Pharaoh forbade infants to be brought up, *he* will not allow them even to be born, depriving them of their ten months' existence in the womb. And how much more credible it is, that kindness to little children should be attributed to Him who blessed matrimony for the procreation of mankind, and in such benediction included also the promise of connubial fruit itself, the first of which is that of infancy!⁴³⁹⁷ The Creator, at the request of Elias, inflicts the blow⁴³⁹⁸ of fire from heaven in the case of that false prophet (of



4386 Nisi quod nec ille. This *ille*, of course, means the Creator's Christ.

4387 Diligit: or, loves.

4388 [Luke ix. 47, 48.](#)

4389 Autem.

4390 [2 Kings ii. 23, 24.](#)

4391 Committit.

4392 Parvulos.

4393 Pueros: [young lads].

4394 Partus Hebræos.

4395 [Ex. ii. 15–21.](#)

4396 See a like comparison in book i. chap. xxix. p. 294.

4397 Qui de infantia primus est: i.e., *cujus* qui de infantia, etc. [Elucidation VIII.]

4398 Repræsentat plagam.

Baalzebub).⁴³⁹⁹ I recognise herein the severity of the Judge. And I, on the contrary, the severe rebuke⁴⁴⁰⁰ of Christ on His disciples, when they were for inflicting⁴⁴⁰¹ a like visitation on that obscure village of the Samaritans.⁴⁴⁰² The heretic, too, may discover that this gentleness of Christ was promised by the selfsame severest Judge. “He shall not contend,” says He, “nor shall His voice be heard in the street; a bruised reed shall He not crush, and smoking flax shall He not quench.”⁴⁴⁰³ Being of such a character, He was of course much the less disposed to burn men. For even at that time the Lord said to Elias,⁴⁴⁰⁴ “He was not in the fire, but in the still small voice.”⁴⁴⁰⁵ Well, but why does this most humane and merciful God reject the man who offers himself to Him as an inseparable companion?⁴⁴⁰⁶ If it were from pride or from hypocrisy that he had said, “I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest,” then, by judicially reprovng an act of either pride or hypocrisy as worthy of rejection, He performed the office of a Judge. And, of course, him whom He rejected He condemned to the loss of not following the Saviour.⁴⁴⁰⁷ For as He calls to salvation him whom He does not reject, or him whom He voluntarily invites, so does He consign to perdition him whom He rejects. When, however, He answers the man, who alleged as an excuse his father’s burial, “Let the dead bury their dead, but go thou and preach the kingdom of God,”⁴⁴⁰⁸ He gave a clear confirmation to those two laws of the Creator—that in Leviticus, which concerns the sacerdotal office, and forbids the priests to be present at the funerals even of their parents. “The priest,” says He, “shall not enter where there is any dead person;”⁴⁴⁰⁹ and for his father he shall not be defiled⁴⁴¹⁰; as well as that in Numbers, which relates to the (Nazarite) vow of separation; for there he who devotes himself to God, among other things, is bidden “not to come at any dead body,” not even of his father, or his mother, or his brother.⁴⁴¹¹ Now it

4399 [2 Kings i. 9–12.](#)

4400 I translate after Oehler’s text, which is supported by the oldest authorities. Pamelius and Rigaltius, however, read “Christi lenitatem increpantis eandem animadversionem,” etc. (“On the contrary, I recognize the gentleness of Christ, who rebuked His disciples when they,” etc.) This reading is only conjectural, suggested by the “Christi lenitatem” of the context.

4401 *Destinantes.*

4402 [Luke ix. 51–56.](#)

4403 [Isa. xlii. 2, 3.](#)

4404 Compare *De Patientia*, chap. xv.

4405 [1 Kings xix. 12.](#)

4406 [Luke ix. 57, 58.](#)

4407 *Salutem:* i.e., “Christ, who is our salvation” (Fr. Junius).

4408 [Luke ix. 59, 60.](#)

4409 *Animam defunctam.*

4410 [Lev. xxi. 1,](#) according to our author’s reading.

4411 [Num. vi. 6, 7.](#)

was, I suppose, for the Nazarite and the priestly office that He intended this man whom He had been inspiring⁴⁴¹² to preach the kingdom of God. Or else, if it be not so, he must be pronounced impious enough who, without the intervention of any precept of the law, commanded that burials of parents should be neglected by their sons. When, indeed, in the third case before us, (Christ) forbids the man “to look back” who wanted first “to bid his family farewell,” He only follows out the rule⁴⁴¹³ of the Creator. For this (retrospection) He had been against their making, whom He had rescued out of Sodom.⁴⁴¹⁴



4412 Imbuerat.

4413 Sectam.

4414 [Gen. xix. 17.](#)

Chapter XXIV.—On the Mission of the Seventy Disciples, and Christ's Charge to Them. Precedents Drawn from the Old Testament. Absurdity of Supposing that Marcion's Christ Could Have Given the Power of Treading on Serpents and Scorpions.

He chose also seventy other missionaries⁴⁴¹⁵ besides the twelve. Now why, if the twelve followed the number of the twelve fountains of Elim,⁴⁴¹⁶ should not the seventy correspond to the like number of the palms of that place?⁴⁴¹⁷ Whatever be the *Antitheses* of the comparison, it is a diversity in the causes, not in the powers, which has mainly produced them. But if one does not keep in view the diversity of the *causes*,⁴⁴¹⁸ he is very apt to infer a difference of *powers*.⁴⁴¹⁹ When the children of Israel went out of Egypt, the Creator brought them forth laden with their spoils of gold and silver vessels, and with loads besides of raiment and unleavened dough;⁴⁴²⁰ whereas Christ commanded His disciples not to carry even a staff⁴⁴²¹ for their journey. The former were thrust forth into a desert, but the latter were sent into cities. Consider the difference presented in the occasions,⁴⁴²² and you will understand how it was one and the same power which arranged the mission⁴⁴²³ of His people according to their poverty in the one case, and their plenty in the other. He cut down⁴⁴²⁴ their supplies when they could be replenished through the cities, just as He had accumulated⁴⁴²⁵ them when exposed to the scantiness of the desert. Even shoes He forbade them to carry. For it was He under whose very protection the people wore not out a shoe,⁴⁴²⁶ even in the wilderness for the space of so many years. "No one," says He, "shall ye salute by the way."⁴⁴²⁷ What a destroyer of the prophets, forsooth, is Christ, seeing it is from them that He received his precept also! When Elisha sent on his servant Gehazi before him to raise the Shunammite's son from death, I rather think he gave him these instructions:⁴⁴²⁸ "Gird up thy loins, and

4415 Apostolos: [Luke x. i.](#)

4416 Compare above, book iv. chap. xiii. p. 364.

4417 [Ex. xv. 27](#) and [Num. xxxiii. 9.](#)

4418 Causarum: "occasions" or circumstances.

4419 Potestatum. In Marcionite terms, "The *Gods* of the Old and the New Testaments."

4420 Consparionum. [Punic Latin.] [Ex. xii. 34, 35.](#)

4421 Virgam, [Luke x. 4,](#) and [Matt x. 10.](#)

4422 Causarum offerentiam.

4423 Expeditionem, with the sense also of "supplies" in the next clause.

4424 Circumcidens.

4425 Struxerat.

4426 [Deut. xxix. 5.](#)

4427 [Luke x. 4.](#)

4428 See [2 Kings iv. 29.](#)

take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not;⁴⁴²⁹ and if any salute thee, answer him not again.”⁴⁴³⁰ For what is a wayside blessing but a mutual salutation as men meet? So also the Lord commands: “Into whatsoever house they enter, let them say, Peace be to it.”⁴⁴³¹ Herein He follows the very same example. For Elisha enjoined upon his servant the same salutation when he met the Shunammite; he was to say to her: “Peace to thine husband, peace to thy child.”⁴⁴³² Such will be rather our *Antitheses*; they compare Christ with, instead of sundering Him from, the Creator. “The labourer is worthy of his hire.”⁴⁴³³ Who could better pronounce such a sentence than the Judge? For to decide that the workman deserves his wages, is in itself a judicial act. There is no award which consists not in a process of judgment. The law of the Creator on this point also presents us with a corroboration, for He judges that labouring oxen are as labourers worthy of their hire: “Thou shalt not muzzle,” says He, “the ox when he treadeth out the corn.”⁴⁴³⁴ Now, who is so good to man⁴⁴³⁵ as He who is also merciful to cattle? Now, when Christ pronounced labourers to be worthy of their hire, He, in fact, exonerated from blame that precept of the Creator about depriving the Egyptians of their gold and silver vessels.⁴⁴³⁶ For they who had built for the Egyptians their houses and cities, were surely workmen worthy of their hire, and were not instructed in a fraudulent act, but only set to claim compensation for their hire, which they were unable in any other way to exact from their masters.⁴⁴³⁷ That the kingdom of God was neither new nor unheard of, He in this way affirmed, whilst at the same time He bids them announce that it was near at hand.⁴⁴³⁸ Now it is that which was once far off, which can be properly said to have become near. If, however, a thing had never existed previous to its becoming near, it could never have been said to have approached, because it had never existed at a distance. Everything which is new and unknown is also sudden.⁴⁴³⁹ Everything which is sudden, then, first receives the accident of time⁴⁴⁴⁰ when it is announced, for it then first puts on appearance of form.⁴⁴⁴¹ Besides it will be

4429 Literally, “bless him not, i.e., salute him not.”

4430 Literally, “answer him not, i.e., return not his salvation.”

4431 [Luke x. 5.](#)

4432 [2 Kings iv. 26.](#) He reads the optative instead of the indicative.

4433 [Luke x. 7.](#)

4434 [Deut. xxv. 4.](#)

4435 Compare above, book ii. chap. 17, p. 311.

4436 See this argued at length above, in book ii. chap. 20, p. 313.

4437 *Dominatoribus.*

4438 [Luke x. 9.](#)

4439 *Subitum.*

4440 *Accipit tempus.*

4441 *Inducens speciem.*

impossible for a thing either to have been tardy⁴⁴⁴² all the while it remained unannounced,⁴⁴⁴³ or to have approached⁴⁴⁴⁴ from the time it shall begin to be announced.

He likewise adds, that they should say to such as would not receive them: "Notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you."⁴⁴⁴⁵ If He does not enjoin this by way of a commination, the injunction is a most useless one. For what mattered it to them that the kingdom was at hand, unless its approach was accompanied with judgment?—even for the salvation of such as received the announcement thereof. How, if there can be a threat without its accomplishment, can you have in a threatening god, one that executes also, and in both, one that is a judicial being?⁴⁴⁴⁶ So, again, He commands that the dust be shaken off against them, as a testimony,—the very particles of their ground which might cleave⁴⁴⁴⁷ to the sandal, not to mention⁴⁴⁴⁸ any other sort of communication with them.⁴⁴⁴⁹ But if their churlishness⁴⁴⁵⁰ and inhospitality were to receive no vengeance from Him, for what purpose does He premise a testimony, which surely forbodes some threats? Furthermore, when the Creator also, in the book of Deuteronomy, forbids the reception of the Ammonites and the Moabites into the church,⁴⁴⁵¹ because, when His people came from Egypt, they fraudulently withheld provisions from them with inhumanity and inhospitality,⁴⁴⁵² it will be manifest that the prohibition of intercourse descended to Christ from Him. The form of it which He uses—"He that despiseth you, despiseth me"⁴⁴⁵³—the Creator had also addressed to Moses: "Not against thee have they murmured, but against me."⁴⁴⁵⁴ Moses, indeed, was as much an apostle as the apostles were prophets. The authority of both offices will have to be equally divided, as it proceeds from one and the same Lord, (the God) of apostles and prophets. Who is He that shall bestow "the power of treading on serpents and scorpions?"⁴⁴⁵⁵ Shall it be He who is the Lord of all living creatures or he who is not

4442 Tardasse.

4443 The announcement (according to the definition) defining the beginning of its existence in time.

4444 Appropinquasse.

4445 [Luke x. 11.](#)

4446 Et judicem in utroque.

4447 Hærentia.

4448 Nedum.

4449 [Luke x. 11.](#)

4450 Inhumanitas.

4451 Ecclesiam. There is force in thus using Christian terms for Jewish ordinances, full as he is of the identity of the God of the old with Him of the new covenant.

4452 [Deut. xxiii. 3.](#)

4453 [Luke x. 16.](#)

4454 [Num. xiv. 27.](#)

4455 [Luke x. 19.](#)

god over a single lizard? Happily the Creator has promised by Isaiah to give this power even to little children, of putting their hand in the cockatrice den and on the hole of the young asps without at all receiving hurt.⁴⁴⁵⁶ And, indeed, we are aware (without doing violence to the literal sense of the passage, since even these noxious animals have actually been unable to do hurt where there has been faith) that under the figure of scorpions and serpents are portended evil spirits, whose very prince is described⁴⁴⁵⁷ by the name of serpent, dragon, and every other most conspicuous beast in the power of the Creator.⁴⁴⁵⁸ This power the Creator conferred first of all upon His Christ, even as the ninetieth Psalm says to Him: “Upon the asp and the basilisk shalt Thou tread; the lion and the dragon shalt Thou trample under foot.”⁴⁴⁵⁹ So also Isaiah: “In that day the Lord God shall draw His sacred, great, and strong sword” (even His Christ) “against that dragon, that great and tortuous serpent; and He shall slay him in that day.”⁴⁴⁶⁰ But when the same prophet says, “The way shall be called a clean and holy way; over it the unclean thing shall not pass, nor shall be there any unclean way; but the dispersed shall pass over it, and they shall not err therein; no lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon; it shall not be found there,”⁴⁴⁶¹ he points out the way of faith, by which we shall reach to God; and then to this way of faith he promises this utter crippling⁴⁴⁶² and subjugation of all noxious animals. Lastly, you may discover the suitable times of the promise, if you read what precedes the passage: “Be strong, ye weak hands and ye feeble knees: then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall hear; then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall be articulate.”⁴⁴⁶³ When, therefore, He proclaimed the benefits of His cures, then also did He put the scorpions and the serpents under the feet of His saints—even He who had first received this power from the Father, in order to bestow it upon others and then manifested it forth conformably to the order of prophecy.⁴⁴⁶⁴



4456 [Isa. xi. 8, 9.](#)

4457 [Deputetur.](#)

4458 [Penes Creatorem.](#)

4459 [Ps. xci. 13.](#)

4460 [Isa. xxvii. 1, Sept.](#)

4461 [Isa. xxxv. 8, 9, Sept.](#)

4462 [Evacuationem.](#)

4463 [Isa. xxxv. 3, 5, 6, Sept.](#)

4464 [Secundum ordinem prædicationis.](#)

Chapter XXV.—Christ Thanks the Father for Revealing to Babes What He Had Concealed from the Wise. This Concealment Judiciously Effected by the Creator. Other Points in St. Luke's Chap. X. Shown to Be Only Possible to the Creator's Christ.

Who shall be invoked as the Lord of heaven, that does not first show Himself⁴⁴⁶⁵ to have been the maker thereof? For He says, "I thank thee, (O Father,) and own Thee, Lord of heaven, because those things which had been hidden from the wise and prudent, Thou has revealed unto babes."⁴⁴⁶⁶ What things are these? And whose? And by whom hidden? And by whom revealed? If it was by Marcion's god that they were hidden and revealed, it was an extremely iniquitous proceeding;⁴⁴⁶⁷ for nothing at all had he ever produced⁴⁴⁶⁸ in which anything could have been hidden—no prophecies, no parables, no visions, no evidences⁴⁴⁶⁹ of things, or words, or names, obscured by allegories and figures, or cloudy enigmas, but he had concealed the greatness even of himself, which he was with all his might revealing by his Christ. Now in what respect had the wise and prudent done wrong,⁴⁴⁷⁰ that God should be hidden from them, when their wisdom and prudence had been insufficient to come to the knowledge of Him? No way had been provided by himself,⁴⁴⁷¹ by any declaration of his works, or any vestiges whereby they might become⁴⁴⁷² wise and prudent. However, if they had even failed in any duty towards a god whom they knew not, suppose him now at last to be known still they ought not to have found a jealous god in him who is introduced as unlike the Creator. Therefore, since he had neither provided any materials in which he could have hidden anything, nor had any offenders from whom he could have hidden himself: since, again, even if he had had any, he ought not to have hidden himself from them, he will not now be himself the revealer, who was not previously the concealer; so neither will any be the Lord of heaven nor the Father of Christ but He in whom all these attributes consistently meet.⁴⁴⁷³ For He conceals by His preparatory apparatus of prophetic obscurity, the understanding of which is open to faith (for "if ye will not believe, ye shall not understand"⁴⁴⁷⁴); and He had offenders in those wise and prudent ones who would not

4465 Ostenditur.

4466 Luke x. 21.

4467 Satis inique.

4468 Præmiserat.

4469 Argumenta.

4470 Deliquerant.

4471 On the Marcionite hypothesis.

4472 Deducerentur.

4473 In quem competunt omnia.

4474 Isa. vii. 9.

seek after God, although He was to be discovered in His so many and mighty works,⁴⁴⁷⁵ or who rashly philosophized about Him, and thereby furnished to heretics their arts;⁴⁴⁷⁶ and lastly, He is a jealous God. Accordingly,⁴⁴⁷⁷ that which Christ thanks God for doing, He long ago⁴⁴⁷⁸ announced by Isaiah: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the understanding of the prudent will I hide.”⁴⁴⁷⁹ So in another passage He intimates both that He has concealed, and that He will also reveal: “I will give unto them treasures that have been hidden, and secret ones will I discover to them.”⁴⁴⁸⁰ And again: “Who else shall scatter the tokens of ventriloquists,⁴⁴⁸¹ and the devices of those who divine out of their own heart; turning wise men backward, and making their counsels foolish?”⁴⁴⁸² Now, if He has designated His Christ as an enlightener of the Gentiles, saying, “I have set thee for a light of the Gentiles;”⁴⁴⁸³ and if we understand these to be meant in the word *babes*⁴⁴⁸⁴—as having been once dwarfs in knowledge and infants in prudence, and even now also babes in their lowliness of faith—we shall of course more easily understand how He who had once hidden “these things,” and promised a revelation of them through Christ, was the same God as He who had now revealed them unto babes. Else, if it was Marcion’s god who revealed the things which had been formerly hidden by the Creator, it follows⁴⁴⁸⁵ that he did the Creator’s work by setting forth His deeds.⁴⁴⁸⁶ But he did it, say you, for His destruction, that he might refute them.⁴⁴⁸⁷ Therefore he ought to have refuted them to those from whom the Creator had hidden them, even the wise and prudent. For if he had a kind intention in what he did, the gift of knowledge was due to those from whom the Creator had detained it, instead of the *babes*, to whom the Creator had grudged no gift. But after all, it is, I presume, the edifica



4475 Rom. i. 20–23.

4476 Ingenia.

4477 Denique.

4478 Olim.

4479 Isa. xxix. 14, Sept.

4480 Isa. xlv. 3, Sept.

4481 Ventriloquorum, Greek ἐγγαστριμύθων.

4482 Isa. xlv. 25, Sept.

4483 Isa. xlii. 6 and xlix. 6.

4484 Luke x. 21.

4485 Ergo.

4486 Res ejus edisserens.

4487 Uti traduceret eas.

tion⁴⁴⁸⁸ rather than the demolition⁴⁴⁸⁹ of the law and the prophets which we have thus far found effected in Christ. "All things," He says, "are delivered unto me of my Father."⁴⁴⁹⁰ You may believe Him, if He is the Christ of the Creator to whom all things belong; because the Creator has not delivered to a Son who is less than Himself all things, which He created by⁴⁴⁹¹ Him, that is to say, by His Word. If, on the contrary, he is the notorious stranger,⁴⁴⁹² what are the "*all things*" which have been delivered to him by the Father? Are they the Creator's? Then the things which the Father delivered to the Son are good, and the Creator is therefore good, since all His "things" are good; whereas he⁴⁴⁹³ is no longer good who has invaded another's good (domains) to deliver it to his son, thus teaching robbery⁴⁴⁹⁴ of another's goods. Surely he must be a most mendacious being, who had no other means of enriching his son than by helping himself to another's property! Or else,⁴⁴⁹⁵ if nothing of the Creator's has been delivered to him by the Father, by what right⁴⁴⁹⁶ does he claim for himself (authority over) man? Or again, if man has been delivered to him, and man alone, then man is not "all things." But Scripture clearly says that a transfer of *all things* has been made to the Son. If, however, you should interpret this "*all*" of the whole human race, that is, *all nations*, then the delivery of even *these* to the Son is within the purpose of the Creator:⁴⁴⁹⁷ "I will give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession."⁴⁴⁹⁸ If, indeed, he has some things of his own, the whole of which he might give to his son, along with the *man* of the Creator, then show some one thing of them all, as a sample, that I may believe; lest I should have as much reason not to believe that all things belong to him, of whom I see nothing, as I have ground for believing that even the things which I see not are His, to whom belongs the universe, which I see. But "no man knoweth who the Father is, but the Son; and who the Son is, but the Father, and he to whom the Son will reveal Him."⁴⁴⁹⁹ And so it was an unknown god that Christ preached! And other heretics, too, prop themselves up by this passage; alleging in opposition to it that the

4488 Constructionem.

4489 Destructionem.

4490 [Luke x. 22.](#)

4491 Per.

4492 ἐπερχόμενος *ille*; on which see above, chap. xxiii. p. 385.

4493 Marcion's god.

4494 Alieno abstinere.

4495 Aut si.

4496 Ecquomodo.

4497 Creatoris est.

4498 [Ps. ii. 8.](#)

4499 [Luke x. 22.](#)

Creator was known to all, both to Israel by familiar intercourse, and to the Gentiles by nature. Well, how is it He Himself testifies that He was not known to Israel? “But Israel doth not know me, and my people doth not consider me;”⁴⁵⁰⁰ nor to the Gentiles: “For, behold,” says He, “of the nations I have no man.”⁴⁵⁰¹ Therefore He reckoned them “as the drop of a bucket,”⁴⁵⁰² while “Sion He left as a look-out⁴⁵⁰³ in a vineyard.”⁴⁵⁰⁴ See, then, whether there be not here a confirmation of the prophet’s word, when he rebukes that ignorance of man toward God which continued to the days of the Son of man. For it was on this account that he inserted the clause that the Father is known by him to whom the Son has revealed Him, because it was even He who was announced as set by the Father to be a light to the Gentiles, who of course required to be enlightened concerning God, as well as to Israel, even by imparting to it a fuller knowledge of God. Arguments, therefore, will be of no use for belief in the rival god which may be suitable⁴⁵⁰⁵ for the Creator, because it is only such as are unfit for the Creator which will be able to advance belief in His rival. If you look also into the next words, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things which ye see, for I tell you that prophets have not seen the things which ye see,”⁴⁵⁰⁶ you will find that they follow from the sense above, that no man indeed had come to the knowledge of God as he ought to have done,⁴⁵⁰⁷ since even the prophets had not seen the things which were being seen under Christ. Now if He had not been my Christ, He would not have made any mention of the prophets in this passage. For what was there to wonder at, if they had not seen the things of a god who had been unknown to them, and was only revealed a long time after them? What blessedness, however, could theirs have been, who were then seeing what others were naturally⁴⁵⁰⁸ unable to see, since it was of things which they had never predicted that they had not obtained the sight;⁴⁵⁰⁹ if it were not because they might justly⁴⁵¹⁰ have seen the things pertaining to their God, which they had even predicted, but which they at the same time⁴⁵¹¹ had not seen? This, however, will be the blessedness of others, even of

4500 [Isa. i. 3.](#)

4501 This passage it is not easy to identify. [See [Is. lxiii. 3.](#)] The books point to [Isa. lxxv. 5](#), but there is *there* no trace of it.

4502 [Isa. xl. 15.](#) [Compare [Is. lxiii. 3.](#) Sept.]

4503 [Speculam.](#)

4504 When the vintage was gathered, [Isa. i. 8.](#)

4505 [Quæ competere possunt.](#)

4506 [Luke x. 23, 24.](#)

4507 [Ut decuit.](#)

4508 [Merito.](#)

4509 [Repræsentationem.](#)

4510 [Æque.](#)

4511 [Tamen.](#)

such as were seeing the things which others had only foretold. We shall by and by show, nay, we have already shown, that in Christ those things were seen which had been foretold, but yet had been hidden from the very prophets who foretold them, in order that they might be hidden also from the wise and the prudent. In the true Gospel, a certain doctor of the law comes to the Lord and asks, “What shall I do to inherit *eternal* life?” In the heretical gospel life only is mentioned, without the attribute *eternal*; so that the lawyer seems to have consulted Christ simply about the life which the Creator in the law promises to prolong,⁴⁵¹² and the Lord to have therefore answered him according to the law, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength,”⁴⁵¹³ since the question was concerning the conditions of *mere* life. But the lawyer of course knew very well in what way the life which the law meant⁴⁵¹⁴ was to be obtained, so that his question could have had no relation to the life whose rules he was himself in the habit of teaching. But seeing that even the dead were now raised by Christ, and being himself excited to the hope of an eternal life by these examples of a restored⁴⁵¹⁵ one, he would lose no more time in merely looking on (at the wonderful things which had made him) so high in hope.⁴⁵¹⁶ He therefore consulted him about the attainment of eternal life. Accordingly, the Lord, being Himself the same,⁴⁵¹⁷ and introducing no new precept other than that which relates above all others⁴⁵¹⁸ to (man’s) entire salvation, even including the present and the future life,⁴⁵¹⁹ places before him⁴⁵²⁰ the very essence⁴⁵²¹ of the law—that he should in every possible way love the Lord his God. If, indeed, it were only about a lengthened life, such as is at the Creator’s disposal, that he inquired and Christ answered, and not about the eternal life, which is at the disposal of Marcion’s god, how is he to obtain the eternal one? Surely not in the same manner as the prolonged life. For in proportion to the difference of the reward must be supposed to be also the diversity of the services. Therefore your disciple, Marcion,⁴⁵²² will not obtain his eternal life in consequence of loving your God, in the same way as the man who loves the Creator will secure the lengthened life. But how happens it that, if He is

4512 [Ex. xx. 12 and Deut. vi. 2.](#)

4513 [Luke x. 27.](#)

4514 [Legalem.](#)

4515 [Recidivæ.](#)

4516 This is perhaps the meaning of “ne plus aliquid observationis exigeret sublimior spe.”

4517 [Nec alius.](#)

4518 [Principaliter.](#)

4519 [Et utramque vitam.](#)

4520 [Ei opponit.](#)

4521 [Caput.](#)

4522 [Dei tui...Marcionites.](#)

to be loved who promises the prolonged life, He is not much more to be loved who offers the eternal life? Therefore both one and the other life will be at the disposal of one and the same Lord; because one and the same discipline is to be followed⁴⁵²³ for one and the other life. What the Creator teaches to be loved, that must He necessarily maintain⁴⁵²⁴ also by Christ,⁴⁵²⁵ for that rule holds good here, which prescribes that greater things ought to be believed of Him who has first lesser proofs to show, than of him for whom no preceding smaller presumptions have secured a claim to be believed in things of higher import. It matters not⁴⁵²⁶ then, whether the word *eternal* has been interpolated by us.⁴⁵²⁷ It is enough for me, that the Christ who invited men to the eternal—not the lengthened—life, when consulted about the temporal life which he was destroying, did not choose to exhort the man rather to that eternal life which he was introducing. Pray, what would the Creator's Christ have done, if He who had made man for loving the Creator did not belong to the Creator? I suppose He would have said that the Creator was not to be loved!

4523 Captanda.

4524 Præstet.

4525 i.e., he must needs have it taught and recommended by Christ.

4526 Viderit.

4527 As Marcion pretended.

Chapter XXVI.—From St. Luke's Eleventh Chapter Other Evidence that Christ Comes from the Creator. The Lord's Prayer and Other Words of Christ. The Dumb Spirit and Christ's Discourse on Occasion of the Expulsion. The Exclamation of the Woman in the Crowd.

When in a certain place he had been praying to that Father above,⁴⁵²⁸ looking up with insolent and audacious eyes to the heaven of the Creator, by whom in His rough and cruel nature he might have been crushed with hail and lightning—just as it was by Him contrived that he was (afterwards) attached to a cross⁴⁵²⁹ at Jerusalem—one of his disciples came to him and said, “Master, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.” This he said, forsooth, because he thought that different prayers were required for different gods! Now, he who had advanced such a conjecture as this should first show that another god had been proclaimed by Christ. For nobody would have wanted to know how to pray, before he had learned whom he was to pray to. If, however, he had already learned this, prove it. If you find nowhere any proof, let me tell you⁴⁵³⁰ that it was to the Creator that he asked for instruction in prayer, to whom John's disciples also used to pray. But, inasmuch as John had introduced some new order of prayer, this disciple had not improperly presumed to think that he ought also to ask of Christ whether they too must not (according to some special rule of their Master) pray, not indeed to another god, but in another manner. Christ accordingly⁴⁵³¹ would not have taught His disciple prayer before He had given him the knowledge of God Himself. Therefore what He actually taught was prayer to Him whom the disciple had already known. In short, you may discover in the import⁴⁵³² of the prayer what God is addressed therein. To whom can I say, “Father?”⁴⁵³³ To him who had nothing to do with making me, from whom I do not derive my origin? Or to Him, who, by making and fashioning me, became my parent?⁴⁵³⁴ Of whom can I ask for His Holy Spirit? Of him who gives not even the mundane spirit;⁴⁵³⁵ or of Him “who maketh His angels spirits,” and whose Spirit it was which in the beginning hovered upon the waters.⁴⁵³⁶ Whose kingdom shall I wish to come—his, of whom I never heard as the king of glory; or His, in whose hand



4528 [Luke xi. 1.](#)

4529 Suffigi.

4530 Scito.

4531 Proinde.

4532 Sensum.

4533 [Luke xi. 2.](#)

4534 Generavit.

4535 *Mundialis spiritus*: perhaps “the breath of life.”

4536 [Gen. i. 2.](#)

are even the hearts of kings? Who shall give me my daily⁴⁵³⁷ bread? Shall it be he who produces for me not a grain of millet-seed;⁴⁵³⁸ or He who even from heaven gave to His people day by day the bread of angels?⁴⁵³⁹ Who shall forgive me my trespasses?⁴⁵⁴⁰ He who, by refusing to judge them, does not retain them; or He who, unless He forgives them, will retain them, even to His judgment? Who shall suffer us not to be led into temptation? He before whom the tempter will never be able to tremble; or He who from the beginning has beforehand condemned⁴⁵⁴¹ the angel tempter? If any one, with such a form,⁴⁵⁴² invokes another god and not the Creator, he does not pray; he only blasphemes.⁴⁵⁴³ In like manner, from whom must I ask that I may receive? Of whom seek, that I may find? To whom knock, that it may be opened to me?⁴⁵⁴⁴ Who has to give to him that asks, but He to whom all things belong, and whose am I also that am the asker? What, however, have I lost before that other god, that I should seek of him and find it. If it be wisdom and prudence, it is the Creator who has hidden them. Shall I resort to him, then, in quest of them? If it be health⁴⁵⁴⁵ and life, they are at the disposal of the Creator. Nor must anything be sought and found anywhere else than there, where it is kept in secret that it may come to light. So, again, at no other door will I knock than at that out of which my privilege has reached me.⁴⁵⁴⁶ In fine, if to receive, and to find, and to be admitted, is the fruit of labour and earnestness to him who has asked, and sought, and knocked, understand that these duties have been enjoined, and results promised, by the Creator. As for that most excellent god of yours, coming as he professes gratuitously to help man, who was not his (creature),⁴⁵⁴⁷ he could not have imposed upon him any labour, or (endowed him with) any earnestness. For he would by this time cease to be the most excellent god, were he not spontaneously to give to every one who does not ask, and permit every one who seeks not to find, and open to every one who does not knock. The Creator, on the contrary,⁴⁵⁴⁸ was able to proclaim these duties and rewards by

4537 [Luke xi. 3.](#)

4538 [Miliun.](#)

4539 [Ps. lxxviii. 25.](#)

4540 [Luke xi. 4.](#)

4541 [Prædamnavit.](#)

4542 [Hoc ordine.](#)

4543 [Infamat.](#)

4544 [Luke xi. 9.](#)

4545 [Salutem: perhaps salvation.](#)

4546 [Unde sum functus.](#) This obscure clause may mean “the right of praying,” or “the right of access, and boldness to knock.”

4547 [Ad præstandum non suo homini.](#)

4548 [Autem.](#)

Christ, in order that man, who by sinning had offended his God, might toil on (in his probation), and by his perseverance in asking might receive, and in seeking might find, and in knocking might enter. Accordingly, the preceding similitude⁴⁵⁴⁹ represents the man who went at night and begged for the loaves, in the light of a friend and not a stranger, and makes him knock at a friend's house and not at a stranger's. But even if he has offended, man is more of a friend with the Creator than with the god of Marcion. At His door, therefore, does he knock to whom he had the right of access; whose gate he had found; whom he knew to possess bread; in bed now with His children, whom He had willed to be born.⁴⁵⁵⁰ Even though the knocking is late in the day, it is yet the Creator's time. To Him belongs the latest hour who owns an entire age⁴⁵⁵¹ and the end thereof. As for the new god, however, no one could have knocked at his door late, for he has hardly yet⁴⁵⁵² seen the light of morning. It is the Creator, who once shut the door to the Gentiles, which was then knocked at by the Jews, that both rises and gives, if not now to man as a friend, yet not as a stranger, but, as He says, "because of his importunity."⁴⁵⁵³ *Importunate*, however, the recent god could not have permitted any one to be in the short time (since his appearance).⁴⁵⁵⁴ Him, therefore, whom you call the Creator recognise also as "Father." It is even He who knows what His children require. For when they asked for bread, He gave them manna from heaven; and when they wanted flesh, He sent them abundance of quails—not a serpent for a fish, nor for an egg a scorpion.⁴⁵⁵⁵ It will, however, appertain to Him not to give evil instead of good, who has both one and the other in His power. Marcion's god, on the contrary, not having a scorpion, was unable to refuse to give what he did not possess; only He (could do so), who, having a scorpion, yet gives it not. In like manner, it is He who will give the Holy Spirit, at whose command⁴⁵⁵⁶ is also the unholy spirit. When He cast out the "demon which was dumb"⁴⁵⁵⁷ (and by a cure of this sort verified Isaiah),⁴⁵⁵⁸ and having been charged with casting out demons by Beelzebub, He said, "If I by Beelzebub cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out?"⁴⁵⁵⁹ By such a question what does He otherwise mean, than



4549 See [Luke xi. 5–8](#).

4550 A sarcastic allusion to the *ante-nuptial* error of Marcion, which he has exposed more than once (see book i. chap. xxix. and book iv. chap. xxiii. p. 386.).

4551 *Sæculum*.

4552 *Tantum quod = vixdum* (Oehler).

4553 [Luke xi. 8](#).

4554 *Tam cito*.

4555 [Luke xi. 11–13](#).

4556 *Apud quem*.

4557 [Luke xi. 14](#).

4558 [Isa. xxix. 18](#).

4559 [Luke xi. 19](#).

that He ejects the spirits by the same power by which their sons also did—that is, by the power of the Creator? For if you suppose the meaning to be, “If I by Beelzebub, etc., by whom your sons?”—as if He would reproach them with having the power of Beelzebub,—you are met at once by the preceding sentence, that “Satan cannot be divided against himself.”⁴⁵⁶⁰ So that it was not by Beelzebub that even they were casting out demons, but (as we have said) by the power of the Creator; and that He might make this understood, He adds: “But if I with the finger of God cast out demons, is not the kingdom of God come near unto you?”⁴⁵⁶¹ For the magicians who stood before Pharaoh and resisted Moses called the power of the Creator “*the finger of God*.”⁴⁵⁶² It was the finger of God, because it was a sign⁴⁵⁶³ that even a thing of weakness was yet abundant in strength. This Christ also showed, when, recalling to notice (and not obliterating) those ancient wonders which were really His own,⁴⁵⁶⁴ He said that the power of God must be understood to be the finger of none other God than Him, under⁴⁵⁶⁵ whom it had received this appellation. *His* kingdom, therefore, was come near to them, whose power was called His “finger.” Well, therefore, did He connect⁴⁵⁶⁶ with the parable of “the strong man armed,” whom “a stronger man still overcame,”⁴⁵⁶⁷ the prince of the demons, whom He had already called Beelzebub and Satan; signifying that it was he who was overcome by the finger of God, and not that the Creator had been subdued by another god. Besides,⁴⁵⁶⁸ how could His kingdom be still standing, with its boundaries, and laws, and functions, whom, even if the whole world were left entire to Him, Marcion’s god could possibly seem to have overcome as “the stronger than He,” if it were not in consequence of His law that even Marcionites were constantly dying, by returning in their dissolution⁴⁵⁶⁹ to the ground, and were so often admonished by even a scorpion, that the Creator had by no means been overcome?⁴⁵⁷⁰ “A (certain) mother of the company exclaims, ‘Blessed is the womb that bare Thee, and the paps which Thou hast sucked;’ but the Lord

4560 [Luke xi. 18.](#)

4561 [Luke xi. 20.](#)

4562 [Ex. viii. 19.](#)

4563 [Significaret.](#)

4564 [Vetustatum scilicet suarum.](#)

4565 [Apud.](#)

4566 [Applicuit.](#)

4567 [Luke xi. 21, 22.](#)

4568 [Ceterum.](#)

4569 [Defluendo.](#)

4570 The *scorpion* here represents any class of the lowest animals, especially such as stung. The Marcionites impiously made it a reproach to the Creator, that He had formed such worthless and offensive creatures. Compare book i. chap. 17, note 5. p. 283.

said, 'Yea, rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.'⁴⁵⁷¹ Now He had in precisely similar terms rejected His mother or His brethren, whilst preferring those who heard and obeyed God.⁴⁵⁷² His mother, however, was not here present with Him. On that former occasion, therefore, He had not denied that He was her son by birth.⁴⁵⁷³ On hearing this (salutation) the second time, He the second time transferred, as He had done before,⁴⁵⁷⁴ the "blessedness" to His disciples from the womb and the paps of His mother, from whom, however, unless He had in her (a real mother) He could not have transferred it.

4571 [Luke xi. 27, 28.](#)

4572 See above, on [Luke viii. 21.](#)

4573 Natura.

4574 Proinde.

Chapter XXVII.—Christ's Reprehension of the Pharisees Seeking a Sign. His Censure of Their Love of Outward Show Rather Than Inward Holiness. Scripture Abounds with Admonitions of a Similar Purport. Proofs of His Mission from the Creator.

I prefer elsewhere refuting⁴⁵⁷⁵ the faults which the Marcionites find in the Creator. It is here enough that they are also found in Christ.⁴⁵⁷⁶ Behold how unequal, inconsistent, and capricious he is! Teaching one thing and doing another, he enjoins “giving to every one that seeks,” and yet he himself refuses to give to those “who seek a sign.”⁴⁵⁷⁷ For a vast age he hides his own light from men, and yet says that a candle must not be hidden, but affirms that it ought to be set upon a candlestick, that it may give light to all.⁴⁵⁷⁸ He forbids cursing *again*, and cursing much more of course; and yet he heaps his *woe* upon the Pharisees and doctors of the law.⁴⁵⁷⁹ Who so closely resembles my God as His own Christ? We have often already laid it down for certain,⁴⁵⁸⁰ that He could not have been branded⁴⁵⁸¹ as the destroyer of the law if He had promulged another god. Therefore even the Pharisee, who invited Him to dinner in the passage before us,⁴⁵⁸² expressed some surprise⁴⁵⁸³ in His presence that He had not washed before He sat down to meat, in accordance with the law, since it was the God of the law that He was proclaiming.⁴⁵⁸⁴ Jesus also interpreted the law to him when He told him that they “made clean the outside of the cup and the platter, whereas their inward part was full of ravening and wickedness.” *This He said*, to signify that by the cleansing of vessels was to be understood before God the purification of men, inasmuch as it was about a man, and not about an unwashed vessel, that even this Pharisee had been treating in His presence. He therefore said: “You wash the outside of the cup,” that is, the flesh, “but you do not cleanse your inside part,”⁴⁵⁸⁵ that is, the soul; adding: “Did not He that made the outside,” that is, the flesh, “also make the inward part,” that is to say, the soul?—by which assertion He expressly declared that to the same God belongs the cleansing of a man's external and internal nature, both alike being in the power of Him who prefers mercy not only



4575 Purgare.

4576 From the Marcionite point of view.

4577 [Luke xi. 29.](#)

4578 [Luke xi. 33.](#)

4579 [Luke vi. 28, also xi. 37–52.](#)

4580 Fiximus.

4581 Denotari.

4582 Tunc.

4583 Retractabat.

4584 Circumferret.

4585 [Luke xi. 39.](#)

to man's washing,⁴⁵⁸⁶ but even to sacrifice.⁴⁵⁸⁷ For He subjoins the command: "Give what ye possess as alms, and all things shall be clean unto you."⁴⁵⁸⁸ Even if another god could have enjoined mercy, he could not have done so previous to his becoming known. Furthermore, it is in this passage evident that they⁴⁵⁸⁹ were not reproved concerning their God, but concerning a point of His instruction to them, when He prescribed to them figuratively the cleansing of their vessels, but really the works of merciful dispositions. In like manner, He upbraids them for tithing paltry herbs,⁴⁵⁹⁰ but at the same time "passing over hospitality⁴⁵⁹¹ and the love of God."⁴⁵⁹² The vocation and the love of what God, but Him by whose law of tithes they used to offer their rue and mint? For the whole point of the rebuke lay in this, that they cared about small matters in His service of course, to whom they failed to exhibit their weightier duties when He commanded them: "Thou shalt love with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, the Lord thy God, who hath called thee out of Egypt."⁴⁵⁹³ Besides, time enough had not yet passed to admit of Christ's requiring so premature—nay, as yet so distasteful⁴⁵⁹⁴—a love towards a new and recent, not to say a hardly yet developed,⁴⁵⁹⁵ deity. When, again, He upbraids those who caught at the uppermost places and the honour of public salutations, He only follows out the Creator's course,⁴⁵⁹⁶ who calls ambitious persons of this character "rulers of Sodom,"⁴⁵⁹⁷ who forbids us "to put confidence even in princes,"⁴⁵⁹⁸ and pronounces him to be altogether wretched who places his confidence in man. But whoever⁴⁵⁹⁹ aims at high position, because he would glory in the officious attentions⁴⁶⁰⁰ of other people, (in every such case,) inasmuch as He forbade

4586 Lavacro.

4587 Matt. ix. 13, xii. 7; comp. Hos. viii. 6.

4588 Luke xi. 41.

4589 The Pharisees and lawyers.

4590 Holuscula.

4591 Marcion's gospel had κλη̄σιν (vocationem, perhaps a general word for *hospitality*) instead of κρίσιν, *judgment*,—a quality which M. did not allow in his god. See Epiphanius, *Hæres.* xlii., Schol. 26 (Oehler and Fr. Junius).

4592 Luke xi. 42.

4593 Deut. vi. 5.

4594 Amaxam.

4595 Nondum palam facto.

4596 Sectam administrat.

4597 Isa. i. 10.

4598 Ps. cxviii. 9.

4599 Quodsiquis.

4600 Officiis.

such attentions (in the shape) of placing hope and confidence in man, He at the same time⁴⁶⁰¹ censured all who were ambitious of high positions. He also inveighs against the doctors of the law themselves, because they were “lading men with burdens grievous to be borne, which they did not venture to touch with even a finger of their own;”⁴⁶⁰² but not as if He made a mock of⁴⁶⁰³ the burdens of the law with any feeling of detestation towards it. For how could He have felt aversion to the law, who used with so much earnestness to upbraid them for passing over its weightier matters, alms—giving, hospitality,⁴⁶⁰⁴ and the love of God? Nor, indeed, was it only these great things (which He recognized), but even⁴⁶⁰⁵ the tithes of rue and the cleansing of cups. But, in truth, He would rather have deemed them excusable for being unable to carry burdens which could not be borne. What, then, are the burdens which He censures?⁴⁶⁰⁶ None but those which they were accumulating of their own accord, when they taught for commandments the doctrines of men; for the sake of private advantage joining house to house, so as to deprive their neighbour of his own; cajoling⁴⁶⁰⁷ the people, loving gifts, pursuing rewards, robbing the poor of the rights of judgment, that they might have the widow for a prey and the fatherless for a spoil.⁴⁶⁰⁸ Of these Isaiah also says, “Woe unto them that are strong in Jerusalem!”⁴⁶⁰⁹ and again, “They that demand you shall rule over you.”⁴⁶¹⁰ And who did this more than the lawyers?⁴⁶¹¹ Now, if these offended Christ, it was as belonging to Him that they offended Him. He would have aimed no blow at the teachers of an alien law. But why is a “woe” pronounced against them for “building the sepulchres of the prophets whom their fathers had killed?”⁴⁶¹² They rather deserved praise, because by such an act of piety they seemed to show that they did not allow the deeds of their fathers. Was it not because (Christ) was jealous⁴⁶¹³ of such a disposition as the Marcionites denounce,⁴⁶¹⁴ visiting the sins of the fathers upon the children unto the fourth

4601 Idem.

4602 [Luke xi. 46.](#)

4603 Suggillans.

4604 Vocationem: Marcion's κλη̄σιν.

4605 Nedum.

4606 Taxat.

4607 Clamantes.

4608 See [Isa. v. 5, 23, and x. 2.](#)

4609 [Isa. xxviii. 14.](#)

4610 The books point to [Isa. iii. 3, 4](#) for this; but there is only a slight similarity in the latter clause, even in the Septuagint.

4611 Legis doctores: the νομικοί of the Gospels.

4612 [Luke xi. 47.](#)

4613 Zelotes.

4614 Arguunt.

generation? What “key,” indeed, was it which these lawyers had,⁴⁶¹⁵ but the interpretation of the law? Into the perception of this they neither entered themselves, even because they did not believe (for “unless ye believe, ye shall not understand”); nor did they permit others to enter, because they preferred to teach them for commandments even the doctrines of men. When, therefore, He reproached those who did not themselves enter in, and also shut the door against others, must He be regarded as a disparager of the law, or as a supporter of it? If a disparager, those who were hindering the law ought to have been pleased; if a supporter, He is no longer an enemy of the law.⁴⁶¹⁶ But all these imprecations He uttered in order to tarnish the Creator as a cruel Being,⁴⁶¹⁷ against whom such as offended were destined to have a “woe.” And who would not rather have feared to provoke a cruel Being,⁴⁶¹⁸ by withdrawing allegiance⁴⁶¹⁹ from Him? Therefore the more He represented the Creator to be an object of fear, the more earnestly would He teach that He ought to be served. Thus would it behove the Creator’s Christ to act.

4615 [Luke xi. 52.](#)

4616 As Marcion held Him to be.

4617 A Marcionite position.

4618 Sævum.

4619 Deficiendo.

Chapter XXVIII.—Examples from the Old Testament, Balaam, Moses, and Hezekiah, to Show How Completely the Instruction and Conduct of Christ⁴⁶²⁰ Are in Keeping with the Will and Purpose of the Creator.

Justly, therefore, was the hypocrisy of the Pharisees displeasing to Him, loving God as they did with their lips, but not with their heart. “Beware,” He says to the disciples, “of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy,” not the proclamation of the Creator. The Son hates those who refused obedience⁴⁶²¹ to the Father; nor does He wish His disciples to show such a disposition towards *Him*—not (let it be observed) towards another god, against whom such hypocrisy indeed might have been admissible, as that which He wished to guard His disciples against. It is the example of the Pharisees which He forbids. It was in respect of Him against whom the Pharisees were sinning that (Christ) now forbade His disciples to offend. Since, then, He had censured their hypocrisy, which covered the secrets of the heart, and obscured with superficial offices the mysteries of unbelief, because (while holding the key of knowledge) it would neither enter in itself, nor permit others to enter in, He therefore adds, “There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; neither hid, which shall not be known,”⁴⁶²² in order that no one should suppose that He was attempting the revelation and the recognition of an hitherto unknown and hidden god. When He remarks also on their murmurs and taunts, in saying of Him, “This man casteth out devils only through Beelzebub,” *He means* that all these imputations would come forth to the light of day, and be in the mouths of men in consequence of the promulgation of the Gospel. He then turns to His disciples with these words, “I say unto you, my friends, Be not afraid of them which can only kill the body, and after that have no more power over you.”⁴⁶²³ They will, however, find Isaiah had already said, “See how the just man is taken away, and no man layeth it to heart.”⁴⁶²⁴ “But I will show you whom ye shall fear: fear Him who, after He hath killed, hath power to cast into hell” (meaning, of course, the Creator); “yea, I say unto you, fear Him.”⁴⁶²⁵ Now, it would here be enough for my purpose that He forbids offence being given to Him whom He orders to be feared; and that He orders Him to be respected⁴⁶²⁶ whom He forbids to be offended; and that He who gives these commands belongs to that very *God* for whom He procures this fear, this absence of offence, and this respect. But this conclusion I can

4620 As narrated by St. Luke xii. 1–21.

4621 Contumaces.

4622 Luke xii. 2.

4623 Luke xii. 4.

4624 Isa. lvii. 1.

4625 Luke xii. 5.

4626 Demereri.

draw also from the following words: “For I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before God.”⁴⁶²⁷ Now they who shall confess Christ will have to be slain⁴⁶²⁸ before men, but they will have nothing more to suffer after they have been put to death by them. These therefore will be they whom He forewarns above not to be afraid of being only killed; and this forewarning He offers, in order that He might subjoin a clause on the necessity of confessing Him: “Every one that denieth me before men shall be denied before God”⁴⁶²⁹—by Him, of course, who would have confessed him, if he had only confessed *God*. Now, He who will confess the confessor is the very same God who will also deny the denier of Himself. Again, if it is the confessor who will have nothing to fear after his violent death,⁴⁶³⁰ it is the denier to whom everything will become fearful after his natural death. Since, therefore, that which will have to be feared after death, even the punishment of hell, belongs to the Creator, the denier, too, belongs to the Creator. As with the denier, however, so with the confessor: if he should deny God, he will plainly have to suffer from God, although from men he had nothing more to suffer after they had put him to death. And so Christ is the Creator’s, because He shows that all those who deny Him ought to fear the Creator’s hell. After deterring *His disciples* from denial of Himself, He adds an admonition to fear blasphemy: “Whosoever shall speak against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him; but whosoever shall speak against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him.”⁴⁶³¹ Now, if both the remission and the retention of sin savour of a judicial God, the Holy Ghost, who is not to be blasphemed, will belong to Him, who will not forgive the blasphemy; just as He who, in the preceding passage, was not to be denied, belonged to, Him who would, after He had killed, also cast into hell. Now, since it is Christ who averts blasphemy from the Creator, I am at a loss to know in what manner His adversary⁴⁶³² could have come. Else, if by these sayings He throws a black cloud of censure⁴⁶³³ over the severity of Him who will not forgive blasphemy and will kill even to hell, it follows that the very spirit of that rival god may be blasphemed with impunity, and his Christ denied; and that there is no difference, in fact, between worshipping and despising him; but that, as there is no punishment for the contempt, so there is no reward for the worship, which men need expect. When “brought before magistrates,” and examined, He forbids them “to take thought how they shall answer;” “for,” says He, “the Holy Ghost shall teach you in that very hour

4627 [Luke xii. 8.](#)

4628 *Occidi habebunt.*

4629 [Luke xii. 9.](#)

4630 *Post occisionem.*

4631 [Luke xii. 10.](#)

4632 *So full of blasphemy, as he is, against the Creator.*

4633 *Infuscat.*

what ye ought to say.”⁴⁶³⁴ If such an injunction⁴⁶³⁵ as this comes from the Creator, the precept will only be His by whom an example was previously given. The prophet Balaam, in Numbers, when sent forth by king Balak to curse Israel, with whom he was commencing war, was at the same moment⁴⁶³⁶ filled with the Spirit. Instead of the curse which he was come to pronounce, he uttered the blessing which the Spirit at that very hour inspired him with; having previously declared to the king’s messengers, and then to the king himself, that he could only speak forth that which God should put into his mouth.⁴⁶³⁷ The novel doctrines of the new Christ are such as the Creator’s servants initiated long before! But see how clear a difference there is between the example of Moses and of Christ.⁴⁶³⁸ Moses voluntarily interferes with brothers⁴⁶³⁹ who were quarrelling, and chides the offender: “Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow?” He is, however, rejected by him: “Who made thee a prince or a judge over us?”⁴⁶⁴⁰ Christ, on the contrary, when requested by a certain man to compose a strife between him and his brother about dividing an inheritance, refused His assistance, although in so honest a cause. Well, then, my Moses is better than your Christ, aiming as he did at the peace of brethren, *and* obviating their wrong. But *of course the case must be different with Christ*, for he is the Christ of the simply good and non-judicial god. “Who,” says he, “made me a judge over you?”⁴⁶⁴¹ No other word of excuse was he able to find, without using⁴⁶⁴² that with which the wicked, man and impious brother had rejected⁴⁶⁴³ the defender of probity and piety! In short, he approved of the excuse, although a bad one, by his use of it; and of the act, although a bad one, by his refusal to make peace between brothers. Or rather, would He not show His resentment⁴⁶⁴⁴ at the rejection of Moses with such a word? And therefore did He not wish in a similar case of contentious brothers, to confound them with the recollection of so harsh a word? Clearly so. For He had Himself been present in Moses, who heard such a rejection—even He, the Spirit of the Creator.⁴⁶⁴⁵



4634 [Luke xii. 11, 12.](#)

4635 Documentum.

4636 Simul.

4637 [Num. xxii.–xxiv.](#)

4638 A Marcionite objection.

4639 “Two men of the Hebrews.”—A.V.

4640 [Ex. ii. 13, 14.](#)

4641 [Luke xii. 13, 14.](#)

4642 Ne uteretur.

4643 Excusserat. Oehler interprets the word by *temptaverat*.

4644 Nunquid indigne tulerit.

4645 This is an instance of the title “*Spirit*” being applied to the divine nature of the Son. See Bp. Bull’s *Def. Nic. Fid.* (by the translator). [See note 13, p. 375, *supra*.]

I think that we have already, in another passage,⁴⁶⁴⁶ sufficiently shown that the glory of riches is condemned by our God, “who putteth down the mighty from their throne, and exalts the poor from the dunghill.”⁴⁶⁴⁷ From Him, therefore, will proceed the parable of the rich man, who flattered himself about the increase of his fields, and to Whom God said: “Thou fool, this night shall they require thy soul of thee; then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?”⁴⁶⁴⁸ It was just in the like manner that the king *Hezekiah* heard from *Isaiah* the sad doom of his kingdom, when he gloried, before the envoys of Babylon,⁴⁶⁴⁹ in his treasures and the deposits of his precious things.⁴⁶⁵⁰

4646 Above, chap. xv. of this book, p. 369, *supra*.

4647 Comp. 1 Sam. ii. 8 with Ps. cxiii. 7 and Luke i. 52.

4648 Luke xii. 16–20.

4649 Apud Persas.

4650 Isa. xxxix.

Chapter XXIX.—Parallels from the Prophets to Illustrate Christ's Teaching in the Rest of This Chapter of St. Luke. The Sterner Attributes of Christ, in His Judicial Capacity, Show Him to Have Come from the Creator. Incidental Rebukes of Marcion's Doctrine of Celibacy, and of His Altering of the Text of the Gospel.

Who would be unwilling that we should distress ourselves⁴⁶⁵¹ about sustenance for our life, or clothing for our body,⁴⁶⁵² but He who has provided these things already for man; and who, therefore, while distributing them to us, prohibits all anxiety respecting them as an outrage⁴⁶⁵³ against his liberality?—who has adapted the nature of “life” itself to a condition “better than meat,” and has fashioned the material of “the body,” so as to make it “more than raiment;” whose “ravens, too, neither sow nor reap, nor gather into storehouses, and are yet fed” by Himself; whose “lilies and grass also toil not, nor spin, and yet are clothed” by Him; whose “Solomon, moreover, was transcendent in glory, and yet was not arrayed like” the humble flower.⁴⁶⁵⁴ Besides, nothing can be more abrupt than that one God should be distributing His bounty, while the other should bid us take no thought about (so kindly a) distribution—and that, too, with the intention of derogating (from his liberality). Whether, indeed, it is as depreciating the Creator that he does not wish such trifles to be thought of, concerning which neither the crows nor the lilies labour, because, forsooth, they come spontaneously to hand⁴⁶⁵⁵ by reason of their very worthlessness,⁴⁶⁵⁶ will appear a little further on. Meanwhile, how is it that He chides them as being “of little faith?”⁴⁶⁵⁷ What faith? Does He mean that faith which they were as yet unable to manifest perfectly in a God who has hardly yet revealed,⁴⁶⁵⁸ and whom they were in process of learning as well as they could; or that faith which they for this express reason owed to the Creator, because they believed that He was of His own will supplying these wants of the human race, and therefore took no thought about them? Now, when He adds, “For all these things do the nations of the world seek after,”⁴⁶⁵⁹ even by their not believing in God as the Creator and Giver of all things, since He was unwilling that they should be like these nations, He therefore upbraided them as being defective of faith in the same God, in whom He remarked that the

4651 Agere curam: take thought.—A.V.

4652 [Luke xii. 22–28.](#)

4653 Æmulam.

4654 Flosculo: see [Luke xii. 24–27.](#)

4655 Ultra subjectis.

4656 Pro sua vilitate.

4657 [Luke xii. 28.](#)

4658 Tantum quod revelato.

4659 [Luke xii. 30.](#)

Gentiles were quite wanting in faith. When He further adds, “But your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things,”⁴⁶⁶⁰ I would first ask, what Father Christ would have to be here understood? If He points to their own Creator, He also affirms Him to be good, who knows what His children have need of; but if He refers to that other god, how does he know that food and raiment are necessary to man, seeing that he has made no such provision for him? For if he had known the want, he would have made the provision. If, however, he knows what things man has need of, and yet has failed to supply them, he is in the failure guilty of either malignity or weakness. But when he confessed that these things are necessary to man, he really affirmed that they are *good*. For nothing that is evil is necessary. So that he will not be any longer a depreciator of the works and the indulgences of the Creator, that I may here complete the answer⁴⁶⁶¹ which I deferred giving above. Again, if it is another god who has foreseen man’s wants, and is supplying them, how is it that *Marcion’s Christ* himself promises them?⁴⁶⁶² Is he liberal with another’s property?⁴⁶⁶³ “Seek ye,” says he, “the kingdom of God, and *all* these things shall be added unto you”—by himself, of course. But if *by himself*, what sort of being is he, who shall bestow the things of another? If by *the Creator*, whose all things are, then who⁴⁶⁶⁴ is he that promises what belongs to another? If these things are “additions” to the kingdom, they must be placed in the second rank;⁴⁶⁶⁵ and the second rank belongs to Him to whom the first also does; His are the food and raiment, whose is the kingdom. Thus to the Creator belongs the entire promise, the full reality⁴⁶⁶⁶ of its parables, the perfect equalization⁴⁶⁶⁷ of its similitudes; for these have respect to none other than Him to whom they have a parity of relation in every point.⁴⁶⁶⁸ We are servants because we have a Lord in our God. We ought “to have our loins girded.”⁴⁶⁶⁹ in other words, we are to be free from the embarrassments of a perplexed and much occupied life; “to have our lights burning,”⁴⁶⁷⁰ that is, our minds kindled by faith, and resplendent with the works of truth. And thus “to wait for our Lord,”⁴⁶⁷¹ that is, Christ. Whence “return-



4660 [Luke xii. 30.](#)
4661 Expunxerim.
4662 [Luke xii. 31.](#)
4663 De alieno bonus.
4664 Qualis.
4665 Secundo gradu.
4666 Status.
4667 Peræquatio.
4668 Cui per omnia pariaverint.
4669 [Luke xii. 35.](#)
4670 [Luke xii. 35.](#)
4671 [Luke xii. 36.](#)

ing?” If “from the wedding,” He is *the Christ* of the Creator, for the wedding is His. If He is not the Creator’s, not even Marcion himself would have gone to the wedding, although invited, for in his god he discovers one who hates the nuptial bed. The parable would therefore have failed in the person of the Lord, if He were not a Being to whom a wedding is consistent. In the next parable also he makes a flagrant mistake, when he assigns to the person of the Creator that “thief, whose hour, if the father of the family had only known, he would not have suffered his house to be broken through.”⁴⁶⁷² How can the Creator wear in any way the aspect of a thief, Lord as He is of all mankind? No one pilfers or plunders his own property, but he⁴⁶⁷³ rather acts the part of one who swoops down on the things of another, and alienates man from his Lord.⁴⁶⁷⁴ Again, when He indicates to us that the devil is “the thief,” whose hour at the very beginning of the world, if man had known, he would never have been broken in upon⁴⁶⁷⁵ by him, He warns us “to be ready,” for this reason, because “we know not the hour when the Son of man shall come”⁴⁶⁷⁶—not as if He were Himself the thief, but rather as being the judge of those who prepared not themselves, and used no precaution against the thief. Since, then, He is the Son of man, I hold Him to be the Judge, and in the Judge I claim⁴⁶⁷⁷ the Creator. If then in this passage he displays the Creator’s Christ under the title “Son of man,” that he may give us some presage⁴⁶⁷⁸ of the thief, of the period of whose coming we are ignorant, you still have it ruled above, that no one is the thief of his own property; besides which, there is our principle also unimpaired⁴⁶⁷⁹—that in *as far as* He insists on the Creator as an object of fear, in *so far* does He belong to the Creator, and does the Creator’s work. When, therefore, Peter asked whether He had spoken the parable “unto them, or even to all,”⁴⁶⁸⁰ He sets forth for them, and for all who should bear rule in the churches, the similitude of stewards.⁴⁶⁸¹ That steward who should treat his fellow-servants well in his Lord’s absence, would on his return be set as ruler over all his property; but he who should act otherwise should be severed, and have his portion with the unbelievers, when his lord should return on the day when he looked not for him, at the hour when he was not aware⁴⁶⁸²—even that Son of man, the Creator’s Christ, not a thief, but a

4672 [Luke xii. 39.](#)

4673 Sed ille potius.

4674 A censure on Marcion’s Christ.

4675 Suffossus.

4676 [Luke xi. 40.](#)

4677 Defendo.

4678 Portendat.

4679 Salvo.

4680 [Luke xii. 41.](#)

4681 Actorum.

4682 [Luke xii. 41–46.](#)

Judge. He accordingly, in this passage, either presents to us the Lord as a Judge, and instructs us in His character,⁴⁶⁸³ or else as the simply good god; if the latter, he now also affirms his judicial attribute, although the heretic refuses to admit it. For an attempt is made to modify this sense when it is applied to his god,—as if it were an act of serenity and mildness simply to sever the man off, and to assign him a portion with the unbelievers, under the idea that he was not summoned (before the judge), but only returned to his own state! As if this very process did not imply a judicial act! What folly! What will be the end of the severed ones? Will it not be the forfeiture of salvation, since their separation will be from those who shall attain salvation? What, again, will be the condition of the unbelievers? Will it not be damnation? Else, if these severed and unfaithful ones shall have nothing to suffer, there will, on the other hand, be nothing for the accepted and the believers to obtain. If, however, the accepted and the believers shall attain salvation, it must needs be that the rejected and the unbelieving should incur the opposite issue, even the loss of salvation. Now here is a judgment, and He who holds it out before us belongs to the Creator. Whom else than the God of retribution can I understand by Him who shall “beat His servants with stripes,” either “few or many,” and shall exact from them what He had committed to them? Whom is it suitable⁴⁶⁸⁴ for me to obey, but Him who remunerates? Your Christ proclaims, “I am come to send fire on the earth.”⁴⁶⁸⁵ That⁴⁶⁸⁶ most lenient being, the lord who has no hell, not long before had restrained his disciples from demanding fire on the churlish village. Whereas *He*⁴⁶⁸⁷ burnt up Sodom and Gomorrah with a tempest of fire. Of Him the psalmist sang, “A fire shall go out before Him, and burn up His enemies round about.”⁴⁶⁸⁸ By Hosea He uttered the threat, “I will send a fire upon the cities of Judah;”⁴⁶⁸⁹ and⁴⁶⁹⁰ by Isaiah, “A fire has been kindled in mine anger.” He cannot lie. If it is not He who uttered His voice out of even the burning bush, it can be of no importance⁴⁶⁹¹ what fire you insist upon being understood. Even if it be but figurative fire, yet, from the very fact that he takes from my element illustrations for His own sense, He is mine, because He uses what is mine. The similitude of fire must belong to Him who owns the reality thereof. But He will Himself



4683 Illi catechizat.

4684 Decet.

4685 [Luke xii. 49.](#)

4686 Ille: Marcion's Christ.

4687 Iste: the Creator.

4688 [Ps. xcvi. 3.](#)

4689 [Hos. viii. 14.](#)

4690 Vel: or, “if you please;” indicating some uncertainty in the quotation. The passage is more like [Jer. xv. 14](#) than anything in Isaiah (see, however, [Isa. xxx. 27, 30](#)).

4691 Viderit.

best explain the quality of that fire *which He mentioned*, when He goes on to say, “Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division.”⁴⁶⁹² It is written “*a sword*,”⁴⁶⁹³ but Marcion makes an emendation⁴⁶⁹⁴ of the word, just as if a *division* were not the work of the *sword*. He, therefore, who refused to give peace, intended also the fire of destruction. As is the combat, so is the burning. As is the sword, so is the flame. Neither is suitable for its lord. He says at last, “The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother-in-law against the daughter-in-law, and the daughter-in-law against the mother-in-law.”⁴⁶⁹⁵ Since this battle among the relatives⁴⁶⁹⁶ was sung by the prophet’s trumpet in the very words, I fear that Micah⁴⁶⁹⁷ must have predicted it to Marcion’s Christ! On this account He pronounced them “hypocrites,” because they could “discern the face of the sky and the earth, but could not distinguish this time,”⁴⁶⁹⁸ when of course He ought to have been recognised, fulfilling (as he was) all things which had been predicted concerning them, and teaching them so. But then who could know the times of him of whom he had no evidence to prove his existence? Justly also does He upbraid them for “not even of themselves judging what is right.”⁴⁶⁹⁹ Of old does He command by Zechariah, “Execute the judgment of truth and peace;”⁴⁷⁰⁰ by Jeremiah, “Execute judgment and righteousness;”⁴⁷⁰¹ by Isaiah, “Judge the fatherless, plead for the widow,”⁴⁷⁰² charging it as a fault upon the vine of Sorech,⁴⁷⁰³ that when “He looked for righteousness therefrom, there was

4692 [Luke xii. 51.](#)

4693 Pamelius supposes that Tertullian here refers to St. Matthew’s account, where the word is μάχαιραν, on the ground that the mss. and versions of St. Luke’s Gospel invariably read διαμερισμόν. According to Rigaltius, however, Tertullian means that *sword* is written in Marcion’s Gospel of Luke, as if the heretic had adulterated the passage. Tertullian no doubt professes to quote all along from the Gospel of Luke, according to Marcion’s reading.

4694 St. Luke’s word being διαμερισμόν (*division*), not μάχαιραν (*sword*).

4695 [Luke xii. 53.](#)

4696 Parentes.

4697 [Mic. vii. 6.](#)

4698 [Luke xii. 56.](#)

4699 [Luke xii. 57.](#)

4700 [Zech. viii. 16.](#)

4701 [Jer. xxii. 3.](#)

4702 [Isa. i. 17.](#)

4703 Tertullian calls by a proper name the vineyard which Isaiah (in his [chap. v.](#)) designates “the vineyard of the Lord of hosts,” and interprets to be “the house of Israel” ([ver. 7](#)). The designation comes from [ver. 2](#), where

only a cry⁴⁷⁰⁴ (of oppression). The same God who had taught them to act as He commanded them,⁴⁷⁰⁵ was now requiring that they should act of their own accord.⁴⁷⁰⁶ He who had sown the precept, was now pressing to an abundant harvest from it. But how absurd, that he should now be commanding them to judge righteously, who was destroying God the righteous Judge! For the Judge, who commits to prison, and allows no release out of it without the payment of “the very last mite,”⁴⁷⁰⁷ they treat of in the person of the Creator, with the view of disparaging Him. Which cavil, however, I deem it necessary to meet with the same answer.⁴⁷⁰⁸ For as often as the Creator’s severity is paraded before us, so often is Christ (shown to be) His, to whom He urges submission by the motive of fear.

the original clause **יִטְעֶהוּ שָׂרִי** is translated in the Septuagint, καὶ ἐφύτευσά ἀμπελον Σωρήκ. Tertullian is most frequently in close agreement with the LXX.

4704 [Isa. v. 7.](#)

4705 [Ex præcepto.](#)

4706 [Ex arbitrio.](#)

4707 [Luke xii. 58, 59.](#)

4708 [Eodem gradu.](#)

Chapter XXX.—Parables of the Mustard-Seed, and of the Leaven. Transition to the Solemn Exclusion Which Will Ensnare When the Master of the House Has Shut the Door. This Judicial Exclusion Will Be Administered by Christ, Who is Shown Thereby to Possess the Attribute of the Creator.

When the question was again raised concerning a cure performed on the Sabbath-day, how did He discuss it: “Doth not each of you on the Sabbath loose his ass or his ox from the stall, and lead him away to watering?”⁴⁷⁰⁹ When, therefore, He did a work according to the condition prescribed by the law, He affirmed, instead of breaking, the law, which commanded that no work should be done, except what might be done for any living being;⁴⁷¹⁰ *and if for any one*, then how much more for a *human* life? In the case of the parables, it is allowed that I⁴⁷¹¹ everywhere require a congruity. “The kingdom of God,” says He, “is like a grain of mustard-seed which a man took and cast into his garden.” Who must be understood as meant by the *man*? Surely Christ, because (although Marcion’s) he was called “the Son of man.” He received from the Father the seed of the kingdom, that is, the word of the gospel, and sowed it in his garden—in the world, of course⁴⁷¹²—in man at the present day, for instance.⁴⁷¹³ Now, whereas it is said, “*in his garden*,” but neither the world nor man is his property, but the Creator’s, therefore He who sowed seed in His own ground is shown to be the Creator. Else, if, to evade this snare,⁴⁷¹⁴ they should choose to transfer the person of *the man* from Christ to any person who receives the seed of the kingdom and sows it in the garden of his own heart, not even this meaning⁴⁷¹⁵ would suit any other than the Creator. For how happens it, if the kingdom belong to the most lenient god, that it is closely followed up by a fervent judgment, the severity of which brings weeping?⁴⁷¹⁶ With regard, indeed, to the following similitude, I have my fears lest it should somehow⁴⁷¹⁷ presage the kingdom of the rival god! For He compared it, not to the unleavened bread which the Creator is more familiar with, but to *leaven*.⁴⁷¹⁸ Now this is a capital conjecture for men who are begging for arguments. I must, however, on my side, dispel one fond conceit by another,⁴⁷¹⁹ and

4709 [Luke xiii. 15.](#)

4710 *Omni animæ.*

4711 *Recognoscor.*

4712 *Utique.*

4713 *Putæ.*

4714 *Laqueum.*

4715 *Materia.*

4716 *Lacrimosa austeritate*, see [Luke xiii. 28.](#)

4717 *Forte.*

4718 [Luke xiii. 20, 21.](#)

4719 *Vanitatem vanitate.*

contend with even *leaven* is suitable for the kingdom of the Creator, because after it comes *the oven*, or, if you please,⁴⁷²⁰ the furnace of hell. How often has He already displayed Himself as a Judge, and in the Judge the Creator? How often, indeed, has He repelled, and in the repulse condemned? In the present passage, for instance, He says, “When once the master of the house is risen up;”⁴⁷²¹ but in what sense except that in which Isaiah said, “When He ariseth to shake terribly the earth?”⁴⁷²² “And hath shut to the door,” thereby shutting out the wicked, of course; and when these knock, He will answer, “I know you not whence ye are;” and when they recount how “they have eaten and drunk in His presence,” He will further say to them, “Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”⁴⁷²³ But where? Outside, no doubt, when they shall have been excluded with the door shut on them by Him. There will therefore be punishment inflicted by Him who excludes for punishment, when they shall behold the righteous entering the kingdom of God, but themselves detained without. By whom detained outside? If by the Creator, who shall be *within* receiving the righteous into the kingdom? The good God. What, therefore, is the Creator about,⁴⁷²⁴ that He should detain outside for punishment those whom His adversary shut out, when He ought rather to have kindly received them, if they must come into His hands,⁴⁷²⁵ for the greater irritation of His rival? But when about to exclude the wicked, he must, of course, either be aware that the Creator would detain them for punishment, or not be aware. Consequently either the wicked will be detained *by the Creator* against the will of the excluder, in which case he will be inferior to the Creator, submitting to Him unwillingly; or else, if the process is carried out with his will, then he himself has judicially determined its execution; and then he who is the very originator of the Creator’s infamy, will not prove to be one whit better than the Creator. Now, if these ideas be incompatible with reason—of one being supposed to punish, and the other to liberate—then to one only power will appertain both the judgment and the kingdom and while they both belong to one, He who executeth judgment can be none else than *the Christ* of the Creator.

4720 Vel.

4721 [Luke xiii. 25.](#)

4722 [Isa. ii. 19.](#)

4723 [Luke xiii. 25–28.](#)

4724 Quid ergo illuc Creatori.

4725 Si stique.

Chapter XXXI.—Christ's Advice to Invite the Poor in Accordance with Isaiah. The Parable of the Great Supper a Pictorial Sketch of the Creator's Own Dispensations of Mercy and Grace. The Rejections of the Invitation Paralleled by Quotations from the Old Testament. Marcion's Christ Could Not Fulfil the Conditions Indicated in This Parable. The Absurdity of the Marcionite Interpretation.

What kind of persons does He bid should be invited to a dinner or a supper?⁴⁷²⁶ Precisely such as he had pointed out by Isaiah: "Deal thy bread to the hungry man; and the beggars—even such as have no home—bring in to thine house,"⁴⁷²⁷ because, no doubt, they are "unable to recompense" your act of humanity. Now, since Christ forbids the recompense to be expected now, but promises it "at the resurrection," this is the very plan⁴⁷²⁸ of the Creator, who dislikes those who love gifts and follow after reward. Consider also to which deity⁴⁷²⁹ is better suited the parable of him who issued invitations: "A certain man made a great supper, and bade many."⁴⁷³⁰ The preparation for the supper is no doubt a figure of the abundant provision⁴⁷³¹ of eternal life. I first remark, that strangers, and persons unconnected by ties of relationship, are not usually invited to a supper; but that members of the household and family are more frequently the favoured guests. To the Creator, then, it belonged to give the invitation, to whom also appertained those who were to be invited—whether considered as *men*, through their descent from Adam, or as *Jews*, by reason of their fathers; not to him who possessed no claim to them either by nature or prerogative. My next remark is,⁴⁷³² if He issues the invitations who has prepared the supper, then, in this sense the supper is the Creator's, who sent to warn the guests. These had been indeed previously invited by the fathers, but were to be admonished by the prophets. *It certainly is not the feast of him* who never sent a messenger to warn—who never did a thing before towards issuing an invitation, but came down himself on a sudden—only then⁴⁷³³ beginning to be known, when already⁴⁷³⁴ giving his invitation; only then inviting, when already compelling to his banquet; appointing one and the same hour both for the supper and the invitation. But when invited, they excuse themselves.⁴⁷³⁵ And fairly enough, if the invitation came from the other god,

4726 [Luke xiv. 12–14.](#)

4727 [Isa. lviii. 7.](#)

4728 Forma.

4729 Cui parti.

4730 [Luke xiv. 16.](#)

4731 Saturitatem.

4732 Dehinc.

4733 Tantum quod...jam.

4734 Tantum quod...jam.

4735 [Luke xiv. 18.](#)

because it was so sudden; if, however, the excuse was not a fair one, then the invitation was not a sudden one. Now, if the invitation was not a sudden one, it must have been given by the Creator—even by Him of old time, whose call they had at last refused. They first refused it when they said to Aaron, “Make us gods, which shall go before us;”⁴⁷³⁶ and again, afterwards, when “they heard indeed with the ear, but did not understand”⁴⁷³⁷ their calling of God. In a manner most germane⁴⁷³⁸ to this parable, He said by Jeremiah: “Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people; and ye shall walk in all my ways, which I have commanded you.”⁴⁷³⁹ This is the invitation of God. “But,” says He, “they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear.”⁴⁷⁴⁰ This is the refusal of the people. “They departed, and walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart.”⁴⁷⁴¹ “I have bought a field—and I have bought some oxen—and I have married a wife.”⁴⁷⁴² And still He urges them: “I have sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early even before daylight.”⁴⁷⁴³ The Holy Spirit is here meant, the admonisher of the guests. “Yet my people hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck.”⁴⁷⁴⁴ This was reported to the Master of the family. Then He was moved (He did well to be moved; for, as Marcion denies emotion to his god, He must be therefore my God), and commanded them to invite out of “the streets and lanes of the city.”⁴⁷⁴⁵ Let us see whether this is not the same in purport as His words by Jeremiah: “Have I been a wilderness to the house of Israel, or a land left uncultivated?”⁴⁷⁴⁶ That is to say: “Then have I none whom I may call to me; have I no place whence I may bring them?” “Since my people have said, We will come no more unto thee.”⁴⁷⁴⁷ Therefore He sent out to call others, but from the same city.⁴⁷⁴⁸ My third remark is this,⁴⁷⁴⁹ that although the place abounded with people, He yet commanded that they gather men from the

4736 Ex. xxxii. 1.

4737 Isa. vi. 10.

4738 Pertinentissime.

4739 Jer. vii. 23.

4740 Jer. vii. 24.

4741 Jer. xi. 8.

4742 Luke xiv. 18–20.

4743 Jer. vii. 25; also xxv. 4, xxvi. 5, xxxv. 15, xlv. 4.

4744 Jer. vii. 26.

4745 Luke xiv. 21.

4746 Jer. ii. 31.

4747 Jer. ii. 31.

4748 Luke xiv. 23.

4749 Dehinc.

highways and the hedges. In other words, we are now gathered out of the Gentile strangers; with that jealous resentment, no doubt, which He expressed in Deuteronomy: “I will hide my face from them, and I will show them what shall happen in the last days⁴⁷⁵⁰ (how that others shall possess their place); for they are a froward generation, children in whom is no faith. They have moved me to jealousy by that which is no god, and they have provoked me to anger with their idols; and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people: I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation⁴⁷⁵¹—even with us, whose hope the Jews still entertain.⁴⁷⁵² But this hope the Lord says they should not realize;⁴⁷⁵³ “Sion being left as a cottage⁴⁷⁵⁴ in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers,⁴⁷⁵⁵ since the nation rejected the latest invitation to Christ. (Now, I ask,) after going through all this course of the Creator’s dispensation and prophecies, what there is in it which can possibly be assigned to him who has done all his work at one hasty stroke,⁴⁷⁵⁶ and possesses neither the Creator’s⁴⁷⁵⁷ course nor His dispensation in harmony with the parable? Or, again in what will consist his first invitation,⁴⁷⁵⁸ and what his admonition⁴⁷⁵⁹ at the second stage? Some at first would surely decline; others afterwards must have accepted.”⁴⁷⁶⁰ But now he comes to invite both parties promiscuously out of the city,⁴⁷⁶¹ out of the hedges,⁴⁷⁶² contrary to the drift⁴⁷⁶³ of the parable. It is impossible for him now to condemn as scorers of his invitation⁴⁷⁶⁴ those whom he has never yet invited, and whom he is approaching with so much earnestness. If, however, he condemns them beforehand as about to reject his call, then be-

4750 ἐπ’ ἐσχάτων ἡμερῶν, Septuagint.

4751 Deut. xxxii. 20, 21.

4752 Gerunt: although vainly at present (“jam vana in Judæis”—Oehler); Semler conjectures “gemunt, bewail.”

4753 Gustaturos.

4754 Specula, “a look-out;” σκηνή is the word in LXX.

4755 Isa. i. 8.

4756 Semel.

4757 This is probably the meaning of a very involved sentence: “Quid ex hoc ordine secundum dispensationem et prædicationes Creatoris recensendo competit illi, cujus (“Creatoris”—Oehler) nec ordinem habet nec dispositionem ad parabolæ conspirationem qui totum opus semel facit?”

4758 “By the fathers.” See above.

4759 “By the prophets.” See also above.

4760 An obscure sentence, which thus runs in the original: “Ante debent alii excusare, postea alii convenisse.”

4761 The Jews.

4762 The Gentiles.

4763 Speculum.

4764 Fastidiosos.

forehand he also predicts⁴⁷⁶⁵ the election of the Gentiles in their stead. Certainly⁴⁷⁶⁶ he means to come the second time for the very purpose of preaching to the heathen. But even if he does mean to come again, I imagine it will not be with the intention of any longer inviting guests, but of giving to them their places. Meanwhile, you who interpret the call to this supper as an invitation to a heavenly banquet of spiritual satiety and pleasure, must remember that the earthly promises also of wine and oil and corn, and even of the city, are equally employed by the Creator as figures of spiritual things.

4765 Portendit.

4766 Plane: This is a Marcionite position (Oehler).

Chapter XXXII.—A Sort of Sorites, as the Logicians Call It, to Show that the Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Drachma Have No Suitable Application to the Christ of Marcion.

Who sought after the lost sheep and the lost piece of silver?⁴⁷⁶⁷ Was it not the loser? But who was the loser? Was it not he who once possessed⁴⁷⁶⁸ them? Who, then, was that? Was it not he to whom they belonged?⁴⁷⁶⁹ Since, then, *man* is the property of none other than the Creator, He possessed Him who owned him; He lost him who once possessed him; He sought him who lost him; He found him who sought him; He rejoiced who found him. Therefore the purport⁴⁷⁷⁰ of neither parable has anything whatever to do with him⁴⁷⁷¹ to whom belongs neither the sheep nor the piece of silver, that is to say, *man*. For he lost him not, because he possessed him not; and he sought him not, because he lost him not; and he found him not, because he sought him not; and he rejoiced not, because he found him not. Therefore, to rejoice over the sinner's repentance—that is, at the recovery of lost man—is the attribute of Him who long ago professed that He would rather that the sinner should repent and not die.

4767 [Luke xv. 1–10.](#)

4768 *Habit.*

4769 *Cujus fuit: i.e., each of the things respectively.*

4770 *Argumentum.*

4771 *Vacat circa eum.*

Chapter XXXIII.—The Marcionite Interpretation of God and Mammon Refuted. The Prophets Justify Christ’s Admonition Against Covetousness and Pride. John Baptist the Link Between the Old and the New Dispensations of the Creator. So Said Christ—But So Also Had Isaiah Said Long Before. One Only God, the Creator, by His Own Will Changed the Dispensations. No New God Had a Hand in the Change.

What the two masters are who, He says, cannot be served,⁴⁷⁷² on the ground that while one is pleased⁴⁷⁷³ the other must needs be displeased,⁴⁷⁷⁴ He Himself makes clear, when He mentions God and mammon. Then, if you have no interpreter by you, you may learn again from Himself what He would have understood by *mammon*.⁴⁷⁷⁵ For when advising us to provide for ourselves the help of friends in worldly affairs, after the example of that steward who, when removed from his office,⁴⁷⁷⁶ relieves his lord’s debtors by lessening their debts with a view to their recompensing him with their help, He said, “And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the *mammon* of unrighteousness,” that is to say, of money, even as the steward had done. Now we are all of us aware that money is the instigator⁴⁷⁷⁷ of unrighteousness, and the lord of the whole world. Therefore, when he saw the covetousness of the Pharisees doing servile worship⁴⁷⁷⁸ to it, He hurled⁴⁷⁷⁹ this sentence against them, “Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”⁴⁷⁸⁰ Then the Pharisees, who were covetous of riches, derided Him, when they understood that by mammon He meant money. Let no one think that under the word mammon the Creator was meant, and that Christ called them off from the service of the Creator. What *folly!* Rather learn therefrom that one God was pointed out by Christ. For they were two masters whom He named, God and mammon—the Creator and money. You cannot indeed serve God—Him, of course whom they seemed to serve—and

403

4772 [Luke xvi. 13.](#)

4773 Defendi.

4774 Offendi.

4775 What in the Punic language is called *Mammon*, says Rigaltius, the Latins call *lucrum*, “gain or lucre.” See Augustine, *Serm. xxxv. de Verbo domini*. I would add Jerome, *On the VI. of Matthew* where he says: “In the Syriac tongue, *riches* are called *mammon*.” And Augustine, in another passage, book ii., *On the Lord’s Sermon on the Mount*, says: “*Riches* in Hebrew are said to be called *mammon*. This is evidently a Punic word, for in that language the synonyme for *gain* (*lucrum*) is *mammon*.” Compare the same author on [Ps. ciii.](#) (Oehler).

4776 Ab actu.

4777 Auctorem.

4778 Famulatam.

4779 Ammentavit.

4780 [Luke xvi. 13.](#)

mammon to whom they preferred to devote themselves.⁴⁷⁸¹ If, however, he was giving himself out as another *god*, it would not be two masters, but three, that he had pointed out. For the Creator was a master, and much more of a master, to be sure,⁴⁷⁸² than mammon, and more to be adored, as being more truly our Master. Now, how was it likely that He who had called mammon a master, and had associated him with God, should say nothing of Him who was really the Master of even these, that is, the Creator? Or else, by this silence respecting Him did He concede that service might be rendered to *Him*, since it was to Himself alone and to mammon that He said service could not be (simultaneously) rendered? When, therefore, He lays down the position that God is one, since He would have been sure to mention⁴⁷⁸³ the Creator if He were Himself a rival⁴⁷⁸⁴ to Him, He did (virtually) name the Creator, when He refrained from insisting⁴⁷⁸⁵ that He was Master alone, without a rival god. Accordingly, this will throw light upon the sense in which it was said, “If ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?”⁴⁷⁸⁶ “In the unrighteous mammon,” that is to say, in unrighteous riches, not in the Creator; for even Marcion allows Him to be righteous: “And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man’s, who will give to you that which is mine?”⁴⁷⁸⁷ For whatever is unrighteous ought to be foreign to the servants of God. But in what way was the Creator foreign to the Pharisees, seeing that He was the proper God of the Jewish nation? Forasmuch then as the words, “Who will entrust to you the truer riches?” and, “Who will give you that which is mine?” are only suitable to the Creator and not to mammon, He could not have uttered them as alien to the Creator, and in the interest of the rival god. He could only seem to have spoken them in this sense, if, when remarking⁴⁷⁸⁸ their unfaithfulness to the Creator and not to mammon, He had drawn some distinctions between the Creator (in his manner of mentioning Him) and the rival god—how that the latter would not commit his own truth to those who were unfaithful to the Creator. How then can he possibly seem to belong to another god, if He be not set forth, with the express intention of being separated⁴⁷⁸⁹ from the very thing which is in question. But when the Pharisees “justified themselves before men,”⁴⁷⁹⁰ and placed their hope of reward in man, He censured them in the sense in which

4781 Magis destinabantur: middle voice.

4782 Utique.

4783 Nominaturus.

4784 Alius.

4785 Quem non posuit.

4786 [Luke xvi. 11.](#)

4787 Meum: [Luke xvi. 12](#), where, however, the word is τὸ ὑμέτερον, that which is your own.”

4788 Notando.

4789 Ad hoc ut seperatur.

4790 [Luke xvi. 15.](#)

the prophet Jeremiah said, “Cursed is the man that trusteth in man.”⁴⁷⁹¹ Since the prophet went on to say, “But the Lord knoweth your hearts,”⁴⁷⁹² he magnified the power of that God who declared Himself to be as a lamp, “searching the reins and the heart.”⁴⁷⁹³ When He strikes at pride in the words: “That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God,”⁴⁷⁹⁴ He recalls Isaiah: “For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is arrogant and lifted up, and they shall be brought low.”⁴⁷⁹⁵ I can now make out why Marcion’s god was for so long an age concealed. He was, I suppose, waiting until he had learnt all these things from the Creator. He continued his pupillage up to the time of John, and then proceeded forthwith to announce the kingdom of God, saying: “The law and the prophets were until John; since that time the kingdom of God is proclaimed.”⁴⁷⁹⁶ Just as if we also did not recognise in John a certain limit placed between the old dispensation and the new, at which Judaism ceased and Christianity began—without, however, supposing that it was by the power of another god that there came about a cessation⁴⁷⁹⁷ of the law and the prophets and the commencement of that gospel in which is the kingdom of God, Christ Himself. For although, as we have shown, the Creator foretold that the old state of things would pass away and a new state would succeed, yet, inasmuch as John is shown to be both the forerunner and the preparer of the ways of that Lord who was to introduce the gospel and publish the kingdom of God, it follows from the very fact that John has come, that Christ must be that very Being who was to follow His harbinger John. So that, if the old course has ceased and the new has begun, with John intervening between them, there will be nothing wonderful in it, because it happens according to the purpose of the Creator; so that you may get a better proof for the kingdom of God from any quarter, however anomalous,⁴⁷⁹⁸ than from the conceit that the law and the prophets ended in John, and a new state of things began after him. “More easily, therefore, may heaven and earth pass away—as also the law and the prophets—than that one tittle of the Lord’s words should fail.”⁴⁷⁹⁹ “For,” as says Isaiah: “the word of our God shall stand for ever.”⁴⁸⁰⁰ Since even *then* by Isaiah it was Christ, the Word and Spirit⁴⁸⁰¹ of the Creator,



4791 [Jer. xvii. 5.](#)

4792 [Jer. xvii. 10,](#) in sense but not in letter.

4793 [Jer. xx. 12.](#)

4794 [Luke xvi. 15.](#)

4795 [Isa. ii. 12](#) (Sept).

4796 [Luke xvi. 16.](#)

4797 Sedatio: literally, “a setting to rest,” ἡρέμησις.

4798 Ut undeunde magis probetur...regnum Dei.

4799 [Luke xvi. 17 and xxi. 23.](#)

4800 [Isa. xl. 8.](#)

4801 See above, note on chap. xxviii., towards the end, on this designation of Christ’s divine nature.

who prophetically described John as “the voice of one crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord,”⁴⁸⁰² and as about to come for the purpose of terminating thenceforth the course of the law and the prophets; by their fulfilment and not their extinction, and in order that the kingdom of God might be announced by Christ, He therefore purposely added the assurance that the elements would more easily pass away than His words fail; affirming, as He did, the further fact, that what He had said concerning John had not fallen to the ground.

4802 [Isa. xl. 3.](#)

Chapter XXXIV.—Moses, Allowing Divorce, and Christ Prohibiting It, Explained.
John Baptist and Herod. Marcion's Attempt to Discover an Antithesis in the
Parable of the Rich Man and the Poor Man in Hades Confuted. The Creator's
Appointment Manifested in Both States.

But Christ prohibits divorce, saying, "Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery; and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband, also committeth adultery."⁴⁸⁰³ In order to forbid divorce, He makes it unlawful to marry a woman that has been put away. Moses, however, permitted repudiation in Deuteronomy: "When a man hath taken a wife, and hath lived with her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found unchastity in her; then let him write her a bill of divorcement and give it in her hand, and send her away out of his house."⁴⁸⁰⁴ You see, therefore, that there is a difference between the law and the gospel—between Moses and Christ?⁴⁸⁰⁵ To be sure there is!⁴⁸⁰⁶ But then you have rejected that other gospel which witnesses to the same verity and the same Christ.⁴⁸⁰⁷ There, while prohibiting divorce, He has given us a solution of this special question respecting it: "Moses," says He, "because of the hardness of your hearts, suffered you to give a bill of divorcement; but from the beginning it was not so"⁴⁸⁰⁸—for this reason, indeed, because He who had "made them male and female" had likewise said, "They twain shall become one flesh; what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."⁴⁸⁰⁹ Now, by this answer of His (to the Pharisees), He both sanctioned the provision of Moses, who was His own (servant), and restored to its primitive purpose⁴⁸¹⁰ the institution of the Creator, whose Christ He was. Since, however, you are to be refuted out of the Scriptures which you have received, I will meet you on your own ground, as if your Christ were mine. When, therefore, He prohibited divorce, and yet at the same time represented⁴⁸¹¹ the Father, even Him who united male and female, must He not have rather exculpated⁴⁸¹² than abolished the enactment of Moses? But, observe, if this Christ be yours when he teaches contrary to Moses and the Creator, on the same

4803 [Luke xvi. 18.](#)

4804 [Deut. xxiv. 1.](#)

4805 A Marcionite challenge.

4806 Plane.

4807 St. Matthew's Gospel.

4808 [Matt. xix. 8.](#)

4809 [Matt. xix. 4, 6.](#)

4810 Direxit.

4811 Gestans.

4812 Excusaverit.

principle must He be mine if I can show that His teaching is not contrary to them. I maintain, then, that there was a condition in the prohibition which He now made of divorce; the case supposed being, that a man put away his wife for the express purpose of⁴⁸¹³ marrying another. His words are: “Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery; and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband, also committeth adultery,”⁴⁸¹⁴ — “put away,” that is, for the reason wherefore a woman ought not to be dismissed, that another wife may be obtained. For he who marries a woman who is unlawfully put away is as much of an adulterer as the man who marries one who is un-divorced. Permanent is the marriage which is not rightly dissolved; to marry,⁴⁸¹⁵ therefore, whilst matrimony is undissolved, is to commit adultery. Since, therefore, His prohibition of divorce was a conditional one, He did not prohibit absolutely; and what He did not absolutely forbid, that He permitted on some occasions,⁴⁸¹⁶ when there is an absence of the cause why He gave His prohibition. In very deed⁴⁸¹⁷ His teaching is not contrary to Moses, whose precept He partially⁴⁸¹⁸ defends, I will not⁴⁸¹⁹ say confirms. If, however, you deny that divorce is in any way permitted by Christ, how is it that you on your side⁴⁸²⁰ destroy marriage, not uniting man and woman, nor admitting to the sacrament of baptism and of the eucharist those who have been united in marriage anywhere else,⁴⁸²¹ unless they should agree together to repudiate the fruit of their marriage, and so the very Creator Himself? Well, then, what is a husband to do in your sect,⁴⁸²² if his wife commit adultery? Shall he keep her? But your own apostle, you know,⁴⁸²³ does not permit “the members of Christ to be joined to a harlot.”⁴⁸²⁴ Divorce, therefore, when justly deserved,⁴⁸²⁵ has even in Christ a defender. So that Moses for the future must be considered as being confirmed by Him, since he prohibits divorce in the same sense as Christ does, if any unchastity should occur in the wife. For in the Gospel of Matthew he says, “Whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of



4813 Ideo ut.

4814 [Luke xvi. 18.](#)

4815 Nubere. This verb is here used of both sexes, in a general sense.

4816 Alias.

4817 Etiam: *first* word of the sentence.

4818 Alicubi.

4819 Nondum.

4820 Tu.

4821 Alibi: i.e., than in the Marcionite connection.

4822 Apud te.

4823 Scilicet.

4824 [1 Cor. vi. 15.](#)

4825 Justitia divortii.

fornication, causeth her to commit adultery.”⁴⁸²⁶ He also is deemed equally guilty of adultery, who marries a woman put away by her husband. The Creator, however, except on account of adultery, does not put asunder what He Himself joined together, the same Moses in another passage enacting that he who had married after violence to a damsel, should thenceforth not have it in his power to put away his wife.⁴⁸²⁷ Now, if a compulsory marriage contracted after violence shall be permanent, how much rather shall a voluntary one, the result of agreement! This has the sanction of the prophet: “Thou shalt not forsake the wife of thy youth.”⁴⁸²⁸ Thus you have Christ following spontaneously the tracks of the Creator everywhere, both in permitting divorce and in forbidding it. You find Him also protecting marriage, in whatever direction you try to escape. He prohibits divorce when He will have the marriage inviolable; He permits divorce when the marriage is spotted with unfaithfulness. You should blush when you refuse to unite those whom even your Christ has united; and repeat the blush when you disunite them without the good reason why your Christ would have them separated. I have⁴⁸²⁹ now to show whence the Lord derived this decision⁴⁸³⁰ of His, and to what end He directed it. It will thus become more fully evident that His object was not the abolition of the Mosaic ordinance⁴⁸³¹ by any suddenly devised proposal of divorce; because it was not suddenly proposed, but had its root in the previously mentioned John. For John reproved Herod, because he had illegally married the wife of his deceased brother, who had a daughter by her (a union which the law permitted only on the one occasion of the brother dying childless,⁴⁸³² when it even prescribed such a marriage, in order that by his own brother, and from his own wife,⁴⁸³³ seed might be reckoned to the deceased husband),⁴⁸³⁴ and was in consequence cast into prison, and finally, by the same Herod, was even put to death. The Lord having therefore made mention of John, and of course of the occurrence of his death, hurled His censure⁴⁸³⁵ against Herod in the form of unlawful marriages and of adultery, pronouncing as an adulterer even the man who married a woman that had been put away from her husband. This he said in order the more severely to load Herod with guilt, who had taken his brother’s wife, after she had been loosed from her

4826 [Matt. v. 32.](#)

4827 [Deut. xxii. 28, 29.](#)

4828 [Mal. ii. 15.](#)

4829 Debeo.

4830 Sententiam.

4831 Literally, “Moses.”

4832 Illiberis. [N.B. He supposes Philip to have been dead.]

4833 Costa: literally, “rib” or “side.”

4834 [Deut. xxv. 5, 6.](#)

4835 Jaculatus est.

husband not less by death than by divorce; who had been impelled thereto by his lust, not by the prescription of the (Levirate) law—for, as his brother had left a daughter, the marriage with the widow could not be lawful on that very account;⁴⁸³⁶ and who, when the prophet asserted against him the law, had therefore put him to death. The remarks I have advanced on this case will be also of use to me in illustrating the subsequent parable of the rich man⁴⁸³⁷ tormented in hell, and the poor man resting in Abraham's bosom.⁴⁸³⁸ For this passage, so far as its letter goes, comes before us abruptly; but if we regard its sense and purport, it naturally⁴⁸³⁹ fits in with the mention of John wickedly slain, and of Herod, who had been condemned by him for his impious marriage.⁴⁸⁴⁰ It sets forth in bold outline⁴⁸⁴¹ the end of both of them, the "torments" of Herod and the "comfort" of John, that even now Herod might hear that warning: "They have there Moses and the prophets, let them hear them."⁴⁸⁴² Marcion, however, violently turns the passage to another end, and decides that both the torment and the comfort are retributions of the Creator reserved in the next life⁴⁸⁴³ for those who have obeyed the law and the prophets; whilst he defines the heavenly bosom and harbour to belong to Christ and his own god. Our answer to this is, that the Scripture itself which dazzles⁴⁸⁴⁴ his sight expressly distinguishes between Abraham's bosom, where the poor man dwells, and the infernal place of torment. "Hell" (I take it) means one thing, and "Abraham's bosom" another. "A great gulf" is said to separate those regions, and to hinder a passage from one to the other. Besides, the rich man could not have "lifted up his eyes,"⁴⁸⁴⁵ and from a distance too, except to a superior height, and from the said distance all up through the vast immensity of height and depth. It must therefore be evident to every man of intelligence who has ever heard of the Elysian fields, that there is some determinate place called Abraham's bosom, and that it is designed for the reception of the souls of Abraham's children, even from among the Gentiles (since he is "the father of many nations," which must be classed amongst his family), and of the same faith as that wherewithal he himself believed God, without the yoke of the law and the sign of circumcision. This region, therefore, I call Abraham's bosom. Although it is not in heaven, it is yet higher than hell,⁴⁸⁴⁶ and is appointed



4836 The condition being that the deceased brother should have left "no child" see (Deut. xxv. 5).

4837 Ad subsequens argumentum divitis.

4838 Luke xvi. 19–31.

4839 Ipsum.

4840 Suggillati Herodis male maritati.

4841 Deformans.

4842 Luke xvi. 29.

4843 Apud inferos. [Note the origin of this doctrine.]

4844 Revincente: perhaps "reproves his eyesight," in the sense of *refutation*.

4845 Luke xvi. 23.

4846 Sublimiorem inferis. [Elucidation VIII.]

to afford an interval of rest to the souls of the righteous, until the consummation of all things shall complete the resurrection of all men with the “full recompense of their reward.”⁴⁸⁴⁷ This consummation will then be manifested in heavenly promises, which Marcion, however, claims for his own god, just as if the Creator had never announced them. Amos, however, tells us of “those stories towards heaven”⁴⁸⁴⁸ which Christ “builds”—of course for His people. There also is that everlasting abode of which Isaiah asks, “Who shall declare unto you *the eternal place*, but He (that is, of course, Christ) who walketh in righteousness, speaketh of the straight path, hateth injustice and iniquity?”⁴⁸⁴⁹ Now, although this everlasting abode is promised, and the ascending stories (or steps) to heaven are built by the Creator, who further promises that the seed of Abraham shall be even as the stars of heaven, by virtue certainly of the heavenly promise, why may it not be possible,⁴⁸⁵⁰ without any injury to that promise, that by Abraham’s bosom is meant some temporary receptacle of faithful souls, wherein is even now delineated an image of the future, and where is given some foresight of the glory⁴⁸⁵¹ of both judgments? If so, you have here, O heretics, during your present lifetime, a warning that Moses and the prophets declare one only God, the Creator, and His only Christ, and how that both awards of everlasting punishment and eternal salvation rest with Him, the one only God, who kills and who makes alive. Well, but the admonition, says *Marcion*, of our God from heaven has commanded us not to hear Moses and the prophets, but Christ; Hear Him *is the command*.⁴⁸⁵² This is true enough. For the apostles had by that time sufficiently heard Moses and the prophets, for they had followed Christ, being persuaded by Moses and the prophets. For even Peter would not have been able⁴⁸⁵³ to say, “Thou art the Christ,”⁴⁸⁵⁴ unless he had beforehand heard and believed Moses and the prophets, by whom alone Christ had been hitherto announced. Their faith, indeed, had deserved this confirmation by such a voice from heaven as should bid them *hear Him*, whom they had recognized as preaching peace, announcing glad tidings, promising an everlasting abode, building for them steps upwards into heaven.⁴⁸⁵⁵ Down in hell, however, it was said con-



4847 Compare [Heb. ii. 2 with x. 35 and xi. 26](#).

4848 Ascensum in cœlum: Sept. ἀνάβασιν εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν, [Amos ix. 6](#). See on this passage the article Heaven in Kitto’s *Cyclopædia* (3d edit.), vol. ii. p. 245, where the present writer has discussed the probable meaning of the verse.

4849 [Isa. xxxiii. 14–16](#), according to the Septuagint, which has but slight resemblance to the Hebrew.

4850 Cur non capiat.

4851 Candida quædam prospiciatur: where *candida* is a noun substantive (see above, chap. vii. p. 353).

4852 There seems to be here an allusion to [Luke ix. 35](#).

4853 Nec accepisset.

4854 [Luke ix. 20](#).

4855 See [Isa. lii. 7, xxxiii. 14 \(Sept.\)](#), and [Amos ix. 6](#).

cerning them: “They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them!”—even those who did not believe them or at least did not sincerely⁴⁸⁵⁶ believe that after death there were punishments for the arrogance of wealth and the glory of luxury, announced indeed by Moses and the prophets, but decreed by that God, who deposes princes from their thrones, and raiseth up the poor from dunghills.⁴⁸⁵⁷ Since, therefore, it is quite consistent in the Creator to pronounce different sentences in the two directions *of reward and punishment*, we shall have to conclude that there is here no diversity of gods,⁴⁸⁵⁸ but only a difference in the actual matters⁴⁸⁵⁹ before us.

4856 Omnino.

4857 See 1 Sam. ii. 6–8, Ps. cxiii. 7, and Luke i. 52.

4858 Divinitatum; “divine powers.”

4859 Ipsarum materiarum.

Chapter XXXV.—The Judicial Severity of Christ and the Tenderness of the Creator, Asserted in Contradiction to Marcion. The Cure of the Ten Lepers. Old Testament Analogies. The Kingdom of God Within You; This Teaching Similar to that of Moses. Christ, the Stone Rejected by the Builders. Indications of Severity in the Coming of Christ. Proofs that He is Not the Impassible Being Marcion Imagined.

Then, turning to His disciples, He says: “Woe unto him through whom offences come! It were better for him if he had not been born, or if a millstone were hanged about his neck and he were cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones,”⁴⁸⁶⁰ that is, one of His disciples. Judge, then, what the sort of punishment is which He so severely threatens. For it is no stranger who is to avenge the offence done to His disciples. Recognise also in Him the Judge, and one too, who expresses Himself on the safety of His followers with the same tenderness as that which the Creator long ago exhibited: “He that toucheth you toucheth the apple of my eye.”⁴⁸⁶¹ Such identity of care proceeds from one and the same Being. A trespassing brother He will have rebuked.⁴⁸⁶² If one failed in this duty of reproof, he in fact sinned, either because out of hatred he wished his brother to continue in sin, or else spared him from mistaken friendship,⁴⁸⁶³ although possessing the injunction in Leviticus: “Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart; thy neighbor thou shalt seriously rebuke, and on his account shalt not contract sin.”⁴⁸⁶⁴ Nor is it to be wondered at, if *He* thus teaches who forbids your refusing to bring back even your brother’s cattle, if you find them astray in the road; much more should you bring back your erring brother to himself. He commands you to forgive your brother, should he trespass against you even “seven times.”⁴⁸⁶⁵ But that surely, is a small matter; for with the Creator there is a larger *grace*, when He sets no limits to forgiveness, indefinitely charging you “not to bear any malice against your brother,”⁴⁸⁶⁶ and to give not merely to him who asks, but even to him who does not ask. For His will is, not that you should forgive⁴⁸⁶⁷ an offence, but forget it. The

4860 [Luke xvii. 1, 2.](#)

4861 [Zech. ii. 8.](#)

4862 [Luke xvii. 3.](#)

4863 Ex acceptione personæ. The Greek προσωποληψία, “respect of persons.”

4864 [Lev. xix. 17.](#) The last clause in A.V. runs, “And not suffer sin upon him;” but the Sept gives this reading,

καὶ οὐ λήψῃ δι’ αὐτόν ἁμαρτίαν; nor need the Hebrew mean other than this. The pronominal particle עָיִי may be well rendered δι’ αὐτόν on his account.

4865 [Luke xvii. 4.](#)

4866 [Lev. xix. 18.](#)

4867 Dones.

law about lepers had a profound meaning as respects⁴⁸⁶⁸ the forms of the disease itself, and of the inspection by the high priest.⁴⁸⁶⁹ The interpretation of this sense it will be our task to ascertain. Marcion's labour, however, is to object to us the strictness⁴⁸⁷⁰ of the law, with the view of maintaining that here also Christ is its enemy—forestalling⁴⁸⁷¹ its enactments even in His cure of the ten lepers. These He simply commanded to show themselves to the priest; “and as they went, He cleansed them”⁴⁸⁷²—without a touch, and without a word, by His silent power and simple will. Well, but what necessity was there for Christ, who had been once for all announced as the healer of our sicknesses and sins, and had proved Himself such by His acts,⁴⁸⁷³ to busy Himself with inquiries⁴⁸⁷⁴ into the qualities *and details* of cures; or for the Creator to be summoned to the scrutiny of the law in the person of Christ? If any part of this healing was effected by Him in a way different from the law, He *yet* Himself did it to perfection; for surely the Lord may by Himself, or by His Son, produce after one manner, and after another manner by His servants the prophets, those proofs of His power and might especially, which (as excelling in glory and strength, because they are His own acts) rightly enough leave in the distance behind them the works which are done by His servants. But enough has been already said on this point in a former passage.⁴⁸⁷⁵ Now, although He said in a preceding chapter,⁴⁸⁷⁶ that “there were many lepers in Israel in the days of Eliseus the prophet, and none of them was cleansed saving Naaman the Syrian,” yet of course the mere number proves nothing towards a difference in the gods, as tending to the abasement⁴⁸⁷⁷ of the Creator in curing only one, and the pre-eminence of Him who healed ten. For who can doubt that many might have been cured by Him who cured one more easily than ten by him who had never healed one before? But His main purpose in this declaration was to strike at the unbelief or the pride of Israel, in that (although there were many lepers amongst them, and a prophet was not wanting to them) not one had been moved even by so conspicuous an example to betake himself to God who was working in His prophets. Forasmuch, then, as He was Himself the veritable⁴⁸⁷⁸ High Priest of God the



4868 Erga: *i.q.* circa.

4869 See [Lev. xiii. and xiv.](#)

4870 Morositatem.

4871 Prævenientem.

4872 [Luke xvii. 11–19.](#)

4873 Or, perhaps, “had proved the prophecy true by His accomplishment of it.”

4874 Retractari.

4875 See above in chap. ix.

4876 Præfatus est: see [Luke iv. 27.](#)

4877 Destructionem.

4878 Authenticus. “He was the *true*, the original Priest, of whom the priests under the Mosaic law were only copies” (Bp. Kaye, *On the Writings of Tertullian*, pp. 293, 294, and note 8).

Father, He inspected them according to the hidden purport of the law, which signified that Christ was the true distinguisher and extinguisher of the defilements of mankind. However, what was obviously required by the law He commanded should be done: "Go," said He, "show yourselves to the priests."⁴⁸⁷⁹ Yet why this, if He meant to cleanse them first? Was it as a despiser of the law, in order to prove to them that, having been cured already on the road, the law was now nothing to them, nor even the priests? Well, the matter must of course pass as it best may,⁴⁸⁸⁰ if anybody supposes that Christ had such views as these!⁴⁸⁸¹ But there are certainly better interpretations to be found of the passage, and more deserving of belief: how that they were cleansed on this account, because⁴⁸⁸² they were obedient, and went as the law required, when they were commanded to go to the priests; and it is not to be believed that persons who observed the law could have found a cure from a god that was destroying the law. Why, however, did He not give such a command to the leper who first returned?⁴⁸⁸³ Because Elisha did not in the case of Naaman the Syrian, and yet was not on that account less the Creator's agent? This is a sufficient answer. But the believer knows that there is a profounder reason. Consider, therefore, the true motives.⁴⁸⁸⁴ The miracle was performed in the district of Samaria, to which country also belonged one of the lepers.⁴⁸⁸⁵ Samaria, however, had revolted from Israel, carrying with it the disaffected nine tribes,⁴⁸⁸⁶ which, having been alienated⁴⁸⁸⁷ by the prophet Ahijah,⁴⁸⁸⁸ Jeroboam settled in Samaria. Besides, the Samaritans were always pleased with the mountains and the wells of their ancestors. Thus, in the Gospel of John, the woman of Samaria, when conversing with the Lord at the well, says, "No doubt⁴⁸⁸⁹ Thou art greater," etc.; and again, "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; but ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."⁴⁸⁹⁰

4879 [Luke xvii. 14.](#)

4880 Et utique viderit.

4881 Tam opiniosus.

4882 Qua: "I should prefer *quia*" (Oehler).

4883 Pristino leproso: but doubtful.

4884 Causas.

4885 [Luke xvii. 17.](#)

4886 Schisma illud ex *novem* tribubus. There is another reading which substitutes the word *decem*. "It is, however, immaterial; either number will do *roundly*. If 'ten' be the number, it must be understood that the tenth is divided, accurately making nine and a half tribes. If 'nine' be read, the same amount is still made up, for *Simeon* was reckoned with *Judah*, and half of the tribe of Benjamin remained loyal" (Fr. Junius).

4887 Avulsas.

4888 [1 Kings xi. 29–39](#) and [xii. 15.](#)

4889 Næ.

4890 [John iv. 12, 20.](#)

Accordingly, He who said, “Woe unto them that trust in the mountain of Samaria,”⁴⁸⁹¹ vouchsafing now to restore that very region, purposely requests the men “to go and show themselves to the priests,” because these were to be found only there where the temple was; submitting⁴⁸⁹² the Samaritan to the Jew, inasmuch as “salvation was of the Jews,”⁴⁸⁹³ whether to the Israelite or the Samaritan. To the tribe of Judah, indeed, wholly appertained the promised Christ,⁴⁸⁹⁴ in order that men might know that at Jerusalem were both the priests and the temple; that there also was the womb⁴⁸⁹⁵ of religion, and its *living* fountain, not its *mere* “well.”⁴⁸⁹⁶ Seeing, therefore, that they recognised⁴⁸⁹⁷ the truth that at Jerusalem the law was to be fulfilled, He healed them, whose salvation was to come⁴⁸⁹⁸ of faith⁴⁸⁹⁹ without the ceremony of the law. Whence also, astonished that one only out of the ten was thankful for his release to the divine grace, He does not command him to offer a gift according to the law, because he had already paid his tribute of gratitude when “he glorified God”;⁴⁹⁰⁰ for thus did the Lord will that the law’s requirement should be interpreted. And yet who was the God to whom the Samaritan gave thanks, because thus far not even had an Israelite heard of another god? Who else but He by whom all had hitherto been healed through Christ? And therefore it was said to him, “Thy faith hath made thee whole,”⁴⁹⁰¹ because he had discovered that it was his duty to render the true oblation to Almighty God—even thanksgiving—in His true temple, and before His true High Priest *Jesus* Christ. But it is impossible either that the Pharisees should seem to have inquired of the Lord about the coming of the kingdom of the rival god, when no other god has ever yet been announced by Christ; or that He should have answered them concerning the kingdom of any other god than Him of whom they were in the habit of asking Him. “The kingdom of God,” He says, “cometh not with observation; neither do they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”⁴⁹⁰² Now, who will not interpret the words “*within you*” to mean *in your hand, within your power*, if you hear, and do the commandment of God? If,



4891 [Amos vi. 1.](#)

4892 Subiciens: or “subjecting.”

4893 [John iv. 22.](#)

4894 Tota promissio Christus.

4895 Matricem.

4896 Fontem non puteum salutis.

4897 Agnovisse.

4898 Justificandos.

4899 [Luke xvii. 19.](#)

4900 [Luke xvii. 15.](#)

4901 [Luke xvii. 19.](#)

4902 [Luke xvii. 20, 21.](#)

however, the kingdom of God lies in His commandment, set before your mind Moses on the other side, according to our *antitheses*, and you will find the self-same view of the case.⁴⁹⁰³ “The commandment is not a lofty one,⁴⁹⁰⁴ neither is it far off from thee. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, ‘Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?’ nor is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, ‘Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?’ But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, and in thy hands, to do it.”⁴⁹⁰⁵ This means, “Neither in this place nor that place is the kingdom of God; for, behold, it is within you.”⁴⁹⁰⁶ And if the heretics, in their audacity, should contend that the Lord did not give an answer about His own kingdom, but only about the Creator’s kingdom, concerning which they had inquired, then the following words are against them. For He tells them that “the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected,” before His coming,⁴⁹⁰⁷ at which His kingdom will be really⁴⁹⁰⁸ revealed. In this statement He shows that it was His own kingdom which His answer to them had contemplated, and which was now awaiting His own sufferings and rejection. But having to be rejected and afterwards to be acknowledged, and taken up⁴⁹⁰⁹ and glorified, He borrowed the very word “rejected” from the passage, where, under the figure of a *stone*, His twofold manifestation was celebrated by David—the first in rejection, the second in honour: “The stone,” says He, “which the builders rejected, is become the head-stone of the corner. This is the Lord’s doing.”⁴⁹¹⁰ Now it would be idle, if we believed that God had predicted the humiliation, or even the glory, of any *Christ* at all, that He could have signed His prophecy for any but Him whom He had foretold under the figure of a *stone*, and a *rock*, and a *mountain*.⁴⁹¹¹ If, however, He speaks of His own coming, why does He compare it with the days of Noe and of Lot,⁴⁹¹² which were dark and terrible—a mild and gentle God as He is? Why does He bid us “remember Lot’s wife,”⁴⁹¹³ who despised the Creator’s command, and was punished for her contempt, if He does not come with judgment to avenge the infraction of His precepts? If He really does punish, like the Creator,⁴⁹¹⁴ if

4903 Una sententia.

4904 Excelsum: Sept. ὑπέροχος.

4905 Deut. xxx. 11–13.

4906 Luke xvii. 21.

4907 Luke xvii. 25.

4908 Substantialiter.

4909 Assumi.

4910 Ps. cxviii. 21.

4911 See Isa. viii. 14 and 1 Cor. x. 4.

4912 Luke xvii. 26–30.

4913 Luke xvii. 32.

4914 Ut ille.

He is my Judge, He ought not to have adduced examples for the purpose of instructing me from Him whom He yet destroys, that *He*⁴⁹¹⁵ might not seem to be my instructor. But if He does not even here speak of His own coming, but of the coming of the Hebrew Christ,⁴⁹¹⁶ let us still wait in expectation that He will vouchsafe to us some prophecy of His own advent; meanwhile we will continue to believe that He is none other than He whom He reminds us of in every passage.

4915 Ille: emphatic.

4916 That is, the *Creator's* Christ from the Marcionite point of view.

Chapter XXXVI.—The Parables of the Importunate Widow, and of the Pharisee and the Publican. Christ's Answer to the Rich Ruler, the Cure of the Blind Man. His Salutation—Son of David. All Proofs of Christ's Relation to the Creator, Marcion's Antithesis Between David and Christ Confuted.

When He recommends perseverance and earnestness in prayer, He sets before us the parable of the judge who was compelled to listen to the widow, owing to the earnestness and importunity of her requests.⁴⁹¹⁷ He show us that it is God the judge whom we must importune with prayer, and not Himself, if He is not Himself the judge. But He added, that “God would avenge His own elect.”⁴⁹¹⁸ Since, then, He who judges will also Himself be the avenger, He proved that the Creator is on that account the specially good God,⁴⁹¹⁹ whom He represented as the avenger of His own elect, who cry day and night to Him. And yet, when He introduces *to our view* the Creator's temple, and describes two men worshipping therein with diverse feelings—the Pharisee in pride, the publican in humility—and shows us how they accordingly went down to their homes, one rejected,⁴⁹²⁰ the other justified,⁴⁹²¹ He surely, by thus teaching us the proper discipline of prayer, has determined that that God must be prayed to from whom men were to receive this discipline of prayer—whether condemnatory of pride, or justifying in humility.⁴⁹²² I do not find from Christ any temple, any suppliants, any sentence (of approval or condemnation) belonging to any other god than the Creator. Him does He enjoin us to worship in humility, as the lifter-up of the humble, not in pride, because He brings down⁴⁹²³ the proud. What other god has He manifested to me to receive my supplications? With what formula of worship, with what hope (shall I approach him?) I trow, none. For the prayer which He has taught us suits, as we have proved,⁴⁹²⁴ none but the Creator. It is, of course, another matter if He does not wish to be prayed to, because He is the supremely and spontaneously good God! But who is this good God? There is, He says, “none but one.”⁴⁹²⁵ It is not as if He had shown us that one of two gods was the supremely good; but He expressly asserts that there is one only good God, who is the only good, because He is the only God. Now, undoubtedly,⁴⁹²⁶ He is the good God

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4917 [Luke xviii. 1–8.](#)

4918 [Luke xviii. 7, 8.](#)

4919 *Meliorem Deum.*

4920 *Reprobatum.*

4921 [Luke xviii. 10–14.](#)

4922 *Sive reprobratricem superbæ, sive justificatricem humilitatis.*

4923 *Destructorem.*

4924 See above, chap. xxvi. p. 392.

4925 [Luke xviii. 19.](#)

4926 *Utique.*

who “sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust, and maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good;”⁴⁹²⁷ sustaining and nourishing and assisting even Marcionites themselves! When afterwards “a certain man asked him, ‘Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’” (Jesus) inquired whether he *knew* (that is, in other words, whether he *kept*) the commandments of the Creator, in order to testify⁴⁹²⁸ that it was by the Creator’s precepts that eternal life is acquired.⁴⁹²⁹ Then, when he affirmed that from his youth up he had kept all the principal commandments, (Jesus) said to him: “One thing thou yet lackedst: sell all that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”⁴⁹³⁰ Well now, Marcion, and all ye who are companions in misery, and associates in hatred⁴⁹³¹ with that heretic, what will you dare say to this? Did Christ rescind the forementioned commandments: “Do not kill, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother?” Or did He both keep them, and then add⁴⁹³² what was wanting to them? This very precept, however, about giving to the poor, was very largely⁴⁹³³ diffused through the pages of the law and the prophets. This vainglorious observer of the commandments was therefore convicted⁴⁹³⁴ of holding money in much higher estimation (than charity). This verity of the gospel then stands unimpaired: “I am not come to destroy the law and the prophets, but rather to fulfil them.”⁴⁹³⁵ He also dissipated other doubts, when He declared that the name of God and of the Good belonged to one and the same being, at whose disposal were also the everlasting life and the treasure in heaven and Himself too—whose commandments He both maintained and augmented with His own supplementary precepts. He may likewise be discovered in the following passage of Micah, saying: “He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to be ready to follow the Lord thy God?”⁴⁹³⁶ Now Christ is the man who tells us what is *good*, even the knowledge of the law. “Thou knowest,” says He, “the commandments.” “To do justly”—“Sell all that thou hast;” “to love mercy”—“Give to the poor:” “and to be ready to walk with God”—“And come,” says He,

4927 [Matt. v. 45.](#)

4928 Ad contestandum.

4929 [Luke xviii. 18–20.](#)

4930 [Luke xviii. 21, 22.](#)

4931 See above, chap. ix., near the beginning.

4932 Adjecit quod deerat.

4933 Ubique.

4934 Traduceretur.

4935 [Matt. v. 17.](#)

4936 [Mic. vi. 8.](#) The last clause agrees with the Septuagint: καὶ ἔτοιμον εἶναι τοῦ πορεύεσθαι μετὰ Κυρίου Θεοῦ σου.

“follow me.”⁴⁹³⁷ The Jewish nation was from its beginning so carefully divided into tribes and clans, and families and houses, that no man could very well have been ignorant of his descent—even from the recent assessments of Augustus, which were still probably extant at this time.⁴⁹³⁸ But the Jesus of Marcion (although there could be no doubt of a person’s having been born, who was seen to be a man), as being unborn, could not, of course, have possessed any public testimonial⁴⁹³⁹ of his descent, but was to be regarded as one of that obscure class of whom nothing was in any way known. Why then did the blind man, on hearing that He was passing by, exclaim, “Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me?”⁴⁹⁴⁰ unless he was considered, in no uncertain manner,⁴⁹⁴¹ to be the Son of David (in other words, to belong to David’s family) through his mother and his brethren, who at some time or other had been made known to him by public notoriety? “Those, however, who went before rebuked the blind man, that he should hold his peace.”⁴⁹⁴² And properly enough; because he was very noisy, not because he was wrong about the son of David. Else you must show me, that those who rebuked him were aware that Jesus was not the Son of David, in order that they may be supposed to have had this reason for imposing silence on the blind man. But even if you could show me this, still (the blind man) would more readily have presumed that they were ignorant, than that the Lord could possibly have permitted an untrue exclamation about Himself. But the Lord “stood patient.”⁴⁹⁴³ Yes; but not as confirming the error, for, on the contrary, He rather displayed the Creator. Surely He could not have first removed this man’s blindness, in order that he might afterwards cease to regard Him as the Son of David! However,⁴⁹⁴⁴ that you may not slander⁴⁹⁴⁵ His patience, nor fasten on Him any charge of dissimulation, nor deny Him to be the Son of David, He very pointedly confirmed the exclamation of the blind man—both by the actual gift of healing, and by bearing testimony to his faith: “Thy faith,” say Christ, “hath made thee whole.”⁴⁹⁴⁶ What would you have the blind man’s faith to have been? That Jesus was descended from that (alien) god (of Marcion), to subvert the Creator and overthrow the law and the prophets? That He was not the destined offshoot from the root of Jesse, and the fruit of David’s loins,



4937 The clauses of Christ’s words, which are here adapted to Micah’s, are in every case broken with an *inquit*.

4938 Tunc pendentibus: i.e., at the time mentioned in the story of the blind man.

4939 Notitiam.

4940 Luke xviii. 38.

4941 Non temere.

4942 Luke xviii. 39.

4943 Luke xviii. 40.

4944 Atquin.

4945 Infameretis.

4946 Luke xviii. 42.

the restorer⁴⁹⁴⁷ also of the blind? But I apprehend there were at that time no such stone-blind persons as Marcion, that an opinion like this could have constituted the faith of the blind man, and have induced him to confide in the mere *name*,⁴⁹⁴⁸ of Jesus, the Son of David. He, who knew all this of Himself,⁴⁹⁴⁹ and wished others to know it also, endowed the faith of this man—although it was already gifted with a better sight, and although it was in possession of the true light—with the external vision likewise, in order that we too might learn the rule of faith, and at the same time find its recompense. Whosoever wishes to see Jesus the Son of David must believe in Him; through the Virgin’s birth.⁴⁹⁵⁰ He who will not believe this will not hear from Him the salutation, “Thy faith hath saved thee.” And so he will remain blind, falling into *Antithesis* after *Antithesis*, which mutually destroy each other,⁴⁹⁵¹ just as “the blind man leads the blind down into the ditch.”⁴⁹⁵² For (here is one of Marcion’s *Antitheses*): whereas David in old time, in the capture of Sion, was offended by the blind who opposed his admission (into the stronghold)⁴⁹⁵³—in which respect (I should rather say) that they were a type of people equally blind,⁴⁹⁵⁴ who in after-times would not admit Christ to be the son of David—so, on the contrary, Christ succoured the blind man, to show by this act that He was not David’s son, and how different in disposition He was, kind to the blind, while David ordered them to be slain.⁴⁹⁵⁵ If all this were so, why did *Marcion* allege that the blind man’s faith was of so worthless⁴⁹⁵⁶ a stamp? The fact is,⁴⁹⁵⁷ the Son of David so acted,⁴⁹⁵⁸ that the *Antithesis* must lose its point by its own absurdity.⁴⁹⁵⁹ Those persons who offended David were blind, and the man who now presents himself as a suppliant to David’s son is afflicted with the same infirmity.⁴⁹⁶⁰ Therefore the Son of David was appeased with some sort of satisfaction by the blind man when He restored him

4947 Remunerator.

4948 That is, in the sound only, and phantom of the word; an allusion to the *Docetic* absurdity of Marcion.

4949 That is, that He was “Son of David,” etc.

4950 Censum: that is, must believe Him born of her.

4951 This, perhaps, is the meaning in a clause which is itself more antithetical than clear: “Ruens in antithesim, ruentem et ipsam antithesim.”

4952 In book iii. chap. vii. (at the beginning), occurs the same proverb of Marcion and the Jews. See p. 327.

4953 See 2 Sam. v. 6–8.

4954 The Marcionites.

4955 See 2 Sam. v. 8.

4956 Fidei equidem pravæ: see preceding page, note 3.

4957 Atquin.

4958 Et hoc filius David: i.e., *præstitit*, “showed Himself good,” perhaps.

4959 De suo retundendam. Instead of *contrast*, he shows the *similarity* of the cases.

4960 Ejusdem carnis: i.e., *infirmæ* (Oehler).

to sight, and added His approval of the faith which had led him to believe the very truth, that he must win to his help⁴⁹⁶¹ the Son of David by earnest entreaty. But, after all, I suspect that it was the audacity (of the old Jebusites) which offended David, and not their malady.

4961 Exorandum sibi.

Chapter XXXVII.—Christ and Zacchæus. The Salvation of the Body as Denied by Marcion. The Parable of the Ten Servants Entrusted with Ten Pounds. Christ a Judge, Who is to Administer the Will of the Austere Man, I.e. The Creator.

“Salvation comes to the house” of Zacchæus even.⁴⁹⁶² For what reason? Was it because he also believed that Christ came by Marcion? But the blind man’s cry was still sounding in the ears of all: “Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.” And “all the people gave praise unto God”—not Marcion’s, but David’s. Now, although Zacchæus was probably a Gentile,⁴⁹⁶³ he yet from his intercourse with Jews had obtained a smattering⁴⁹⁶⁴ of their Scriptures, and, more than this, had, without knowing it, fulfilled the precepts of Isaiah: “Deal thy bread,” said the prophet, “to the hungry, and bring the poor that are cast out into thine house.”⁴⁹⁶⁵ This he did in the best possible way, by receiving the Lord, and entertaining Him in his house. “When thou seest the naked cover him.”⁴⁹⁶⁶ This he promised to do, in an equally satisfactory way, when he offered the half of his goods for all works of mercy.⁴⁹⁶⁷ So also “he loosened the bands of wickedness, undid the heavy burdens, let the oppressed go free, and broke every yoke,”⁴⁹⁶⁸ when he said, “If I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.”⁴⁹⁶⁹ Therefore the Lord said, “This day is salvation come to this house.”⁴⁹⁷⁰ Thus did He give His testimony, that the precepts of the Creator spoken by the prophet tended to salvation.⁴⁹⁷¹ But when He adds, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost,”⁴⁹⁷² my present contention is not whether *He* was come to save what was lost, *to whom* it had once belonged, and *from whom* what He came to save had fallen away; but I approach a different question. *Man*, there can be no doubt of it, is here the subject of consideration. Now, since he consists of two parts,⁴⁹⁷³

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4962 [Luke xix. 9.](#)

4963 The older reading, which we here follow, is: “Enimvero Zacchæus etsi allophylus fortasse,” etc. Oehler, however, points the passage thus: “Enimvero Zacchæus etsi allophylus, fortasse,” etc., removing the doubt, and making Zacchæus “of another race” than the Jewish, for certain. This is probably more than Tertullian meant to say.

4964 Aliqua notitia afflatus.

4965 [Isa. lviii. 7.](#)

4966 In the same passage.

4967 For the history of Zacchæus, see [Luke xix. 1–10.](#)

4968 [Isa. lviii. 6.](#)

4969 [Luke xix. 8.](#)

4970 [Luke xix. 9.](#)

4971 Salutaria esse.

4972 [Luke xix. 10.](#)

4973 Substantiis.

body and soul, the point to be inquired into is, in which of these two man would seem to have been lost? If in his body, then it is his body, not his soul, which is lost. What, however, is lost, the Son of man saves. The body,⁴⁹⁷⁴ therefore, has the salvation. If, (on the other hand,) it is in his soul that man is lost, salvation is designed for the lost soul; and the body which is not lost is safe. If, (to take the only other supposition,) man is wholly lost, in both his natures, then it necessarily follows that salvation is appointed for the entire man; and then the opinion of the heretics is shivered to pieces,⁴⁹⁷⁵ who say that there is no salvation of the flesh. And this affords a confirmation that Christ belongs to the Creator, who followed the Creator in promising the salvation of the whole man. The parable also of the (ten) servants, who received their several recompenses according to the manner in which they had increased their lord's money by trading⁴⁹⁷⁶ proves Him to be a God of judgment—even a God who, in strict account,⁴⁹⁷⁷ not only bestows honour, but also takes away what a man seems to have.⁴⁹⁷⁸ Else, if it is the Creator whom He has here delineated as the “austere man,” who “takes up what he laid not down, and reaps what he did not sow,”⁴⁹⁷⁹ my instructor even here is He, (whoever He may be,) to whom belongs the money He teaches me fruitfully to expend.⁴⁹⁸⁰

4974 Caro: “the flesh,” here a synonym with the *corpus* of the previous clauses.

4975 Elisa est.

4976 Secundum rationem feneratæ.

4977 Ex parte severitatis.

4978 This phrase comes not from the present passage, but from [Luke viii. 18](#), where the words are ὁ δοκεῖ ἔχειν; *here* the expression is ὁ ἔχει only.

4979 [Luke xix. 22](#).

4980 The original of this obscure sentence is as follows: “Aut si et hic Creatorem finxerit austerum.....hic quoque me ille instruit ejus pecuniam ut fenerem edocet.

Chapter XXXVIII.—Christ's Refutations of the Pharisees. Rendering Dues to Cæsar and to God. Next of the Sadducees, Respecting Marriage in the Resurrection. These Prove Him Not to Be Marcion's But the Creator's Christ. Marcion's Tamperings in Order to Make Room for His Second God, Exposed and Confuted.

Christ knew "the baptism of John, whence it was."⁴⁹⁸¹ Then why did He ask them, as if He knew not? He knew that the Pharisees would not give Him an answer; then why did He ask in vain? Was it that He might judge them out of their own mouth, or their own heart? Suppose you refer these points to an excuse of the Creator, or to *His* comparison with Christ; then consider what would have happened if the Pharisees had replied to His question. Suppose their answer to have been, that John's baptism was "of men," they would have been immediately stoned to death.⁴⁹⁸² Some Marcion, in rivalry to Marcion, would have stood up⁴⁹⁸³ and said: O most excellent God; how different are his ways from the Creator's! Knowing that men would rush down headlong over it, He placed them actually⁴⁹⁸⁴ on the very precipice. For thus do men treat of the Creator respecting His law of the tree.⁴⁹⁸⁵ But John's baptism was "from heaven." "Why, therefore," asks Christ, "did ye not believe him?"⁴⁹⁸⁶ He therefore who had wished men to believe John, purposing to censure⁴⁹⁸⁷ them because they had not believed him, belonged to Him whose sacrament John was administering. But, at any rate,⁴⁹⁸⁸ when He actually met their refusal to say what they thought, with such reprisals as, "Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things,"⁴⁹⁸⁹ He returned evil for evil! "Render unto Cæsar the things which be Cæsar's, and unto God the things which be God's."⁴⁹⁹⁰ What will be "the things which are God's?" Such things as are like Cæsar's *denarius*—that is to say, His image and similitude. That, therefore, which he commands to be "rendered unto God," the Creator, is *man*, who has been stamped with His image, likeness, name, and substance.⁴⁹⁹¹ Let Marcion's god look after his own mint.⁴⁹⁹²



4981 [Luke xx. 4.](#)

4982 [Luke xx. 6.](#)

4983 Existeret.

4984 Ipse.

4985 "Of knowledge of good and evil." The "*law*" thereof occurs in [Gen. iii. 3.](#)

4986 [Luke xx. 5.](#)

4987 Increpaturus.

4988 Certe. [The word *sacrament* not technical here.]

4989 [Luke xx. 8.](#)

4990 [Luke xx. 25.](#)

4991 Materia.

4992 Monetam.

Christ bids the *denarius* of man's imprint to be rendered to His Cæsar, (His Cæsar I say,) not the Cæsar of a strange god.⁴⁹⁹³ The truth, however, must be confessed, this god has not a *denarius* to call his own! In every question the just and proper rule is, that the meaning of the answer ought to be adapted to the proposed inquiry. But it is nothing short of madness to return an answer altogether different from the question submitted to you. God forbid, then, that we should expect from Christ⁴⁹⁹⁴ conduct which would be unfit even to an ordinary man! The Sadducees, who said there was no resurrection, in a discussion on that subject, had proposed to the Lord a case of law touching a certain woman, who, in accordance with the legal prescription, had been married to seven brothers who had died one after the other. The question therefore was, to which husband must she be reckoned to belong in the resurrection?⁴⁹⁹⁵ This, (observe,) was the gist of the inquiry, this was the sum and substance of the dispute. And to it Christ was obliged to return a direct answer. He had nobody to fear; that it should seem advisable⁴⁹⁹⁶ for Him either to evade their questions, or to make them the occasion of indirectly mooting⁴⁹⁹⁷ a subject which He was not in the habit of teaching publicly at any other time. He therefore gave His answer, that "the children of this world marry."⁴⁹⁹⁸ You see how pertinent it was to the case in point. Because the question concerned the next world, and He was going to declare that no one marries there, He opens the way by laying down the principles that here, where there is death, there is also marriage. "But they whom God shall account worthy of the possession of that world and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; forasmuch as they cannot die any more, since they become equal to the angels, being made the children of God and of the resurrection."⁴⁹⁹⁹ If, then, the meaning of the answer must not turn on any other point than on the proposed question, and since the question proposed is fully understood from this sense of the answer,⁵⁰⁰⁰ then the Lord's reply admits of no other interpretation than that by which the question is clearly understood.⁵⁰⁰¹ You have both the time in which marriage is permitted, and the time in which it is said to be unsuitable, laid before you, not on their own account, but in consequence of an inquiry about the resurrection. You have likewise a confirmation of the resurrection itself, and the whole question which the Sadducees mooted,

4993 Non alieno.

4994 Quo magis absit a Christo.

4995 [Luke xx. 27–33.](#)

4996 Ut videatur.

4997 Subostendisse.

4998 [Luke xx. 34.](#)

4999 [Luke xx. 35, 36.](#)

5000 Surely Oehler's *responsio* ought to be *responsionis*, as the older books have it.

5001 Absolvitur.

who asked no question about another god, nor inquired about the proper law of marriage. Now, if you make Christ answer questions which were not submitted to Him, you, in fact, represent Him as having been unable to solve the points on which He was really consulted, and entrapped of course by the cunning of the Sadducees. I shall now proceed, by way of supererogation,⁵⁰⁰² and after the rule (I have laid down about questions and answers),⁵⁰⁰³ to deal with the arguments which have any consistency in them.⁵⁰⁰⁴ They procured then a copy of the Scripture, and made short work with its text, by reading it thus:⁵⁰⁰⁵ “Those whom *the god of that world* shall account worthy.” They add the phrase “*of that world*” to the word “*god*,” whereby they make another god “the god of that world;” whereas the passage ought to be read thus: “Those whom God shall account worthy of the possession of that world” (removing the distinguishing phrase “*of this world*” to the end of the clause,⁵⁰⁰⁶ in other words, “Those whom God shall account worthy of obtaining and rising to that world.” For the question submitted to Christ had nothing to do with *the god*, but only with *the state*, of that world. It was: “Whose wife should this woman be in that world after the resurrection?”⁵⁰⁰⁷ They thus subvert His answer respecting the essential question of marriage, and apply His words, “The children of this world marry and are given in marriage,” as if they referred to the Creator’s men, and His permission to them to marry; whilst they themselves whom the god of that world—that is, the rival god—accounted worthy of the resurrection, do not marry even here, because they are not children of this world. But the fact is, that, having been consulted about marriage in *that* world, not in this present one, He had simply



5002 Ex abundanti.

5003 We have translated here, *post præscriptionem*, according to the more frequent sense of the word, *præscriptio*. But there is another meaning of the word, which is not unknown to our author, equivalent to our *objection* or *demurrer*, or (to quote Oehler’s definition) “*clausula qua reus adversarii intentionem oppugnat—the form by which the defendant rebuts the plaintiff’s charge.*” According to this sense, we read: “I shall now proceed...and after putting in a demurrer (or taking exception) against the tactics of my opponent.”

5004 Cohærentes.

5005 Decucurrerunt in legendo: or, “they ran through it, by thus reading.”

5006 We have *adapted*, rather than translated, Tertullian’s words in this parenthesis. His words of course suit the order of the Latin, which differs from the English. The sentence in Latin is, “Quos autem dignatus est Deus illius ævi possessione et resurrectione a mortuis.” The phrase in question is *illius ævi*. Where shall it stand? The Marcionites placed it after “*Deus*” in government, but Tertullian (following the undoubted meaning of the sentence) says it depends on “*possessione et resurrectione*,” i.e., “worthy of the possession, etc., of that world.” To effect this construction, he says, “Ut facta hic distinctione post deum ad sequentia pertineat illius ævi;” i.e., he requests that a stop be placed after the word “*deus*,” whereby the phrase “*illius ævi*” will belong to the words which follow—“*possessione et resurrectione a mortuis.*”

5007 [Luke xx. 33.](#)

declared the non-existence of that to which the question related. They, indeed, who had caught the very force of His voice, and pronunciation, and expression, discovered no other sense than what had reference to the matter of the question. Accordingly, the Scribes exclaimed, "Master, Thou hast well said."⁵⁰⁰⁸ For He had affirmed the resurrection, by describing the form⁵⁰⁰⁹ thereof in opposition to the opinion of the Sadducees. Now, He did not reject the attestation of those who had assumed His answer to bear this meaning. If, however, the Scribes thought Christ was David's Son, whereas (David) himself calls Him Lord,⁵⁰¹⁰ what relation has this to Christ? David did not literally confute⁵⁰¹¹ an error of the Scribes, yet David asserted the honour of Christ, when he more prominently affirmed that He was his Lord than his Son,—an attribute which was hardly suitable to the destroyer of the Creator. But how consistent is the interpretation on our side of the question! For He, who had been a little while ago invoked by the blind man as "the Son of David,"⁵⁰¹² then made no remark on the subject, not having the Scribes in His presence; whereas He now purposely moots the point before them, and *that* of His own accord,⁵⁰¹³ in order that He might show Himself whom the blind man, following the doctrine of the Scribes, had simply declared to be the Son of David, to be also his Lord. He thus honoured the blind man's faith which had acknowledged His Sonship to David; but at the same time He struck a blow at the tradition of the Scribes, which prevented them from knowing that He was also (David's) Lord. Whatever had relation to the glory of the Creator's Christ, no other would thus guard and maintain⁵⁰¹⁴ but Himself the Creator's Christ.

5008 [Luke xx. 39.](#)

5009 Formam: "its conditions" or "process."

5010 [Luke xx. 41–44.](#)

5011 Non obtundebat.

5012 [Luke xviii. 38.](#)

5013 [Luke xx. 41.](#)

5014 Tueretur.

Chapter XXXIX.—Concerning Those Who Come in the Name of Christ. The Terrible Signs of His Coming. He Whose Coming is So Grandly Described Both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, is None Other Than the Christ of the Creator. This Proof Enhanced by the Parable of the Fig-Tree and All the Trees. Parallel Passages of Prophecy.

As touching the propriety of His names, it has already been seen⁵⁰¹⁵ that both of them⁵⁰¹⁶ are suitable to Him who was the first both to announce His *Christ* to mankind, and to give Him the further name⁵⁰¹⁷ of *Jesus*. The impudence, therefore, of Marcion's Christ will be evident, when he says that many will come in his name, whereas this name does not at all belong to *him*, since he is not the Christ and Jesus of the Creator, to whom these names do properly appertain; and more especially when he prohibits those to be received whose very equal in imposture he is, inasmuch as he (equally with them⁵⁰¹⁸) comes in a name which belongs to another—unless it was his business to warn off from a mendaciously assumed name the disciples (of One) who, by reason of His name being properly given to Him, possessed also the verity thereof. But when “they shall by and by come and say, I am Christ,”⁵⁰¹⁹ they will be received by you, who have already received one altogether like them.⁵⁰²⁰ Christ, however, comes in His own name. What will you do, then, when He Himself comes who is the very Proprietor of these names, the Creator's Christ and Jesus? Will you reject Him? But how iniquitous, how unjust and disrespectful to the good God, that you should not receive Him who comes in His own name, when you have received another in His name! Now, let us see what are the signs which He ascribes to the times. “Wars,” I observe, “and kingdom against kingdom, and nation against nation, and pestilence, and famines, and earthquakes, and fearful sights, and great signs from heaven”⁵⁰²¹—all which things are suitable for a severe and terrible God. Now, when He goes on to say that “all these things must needs come to pass,”⁵⁰²² what does He represent Himself to be? The Destroyer, or the Defender of the Creator? For He affirms that these appointments of His must fully come to pass; but surely as the good God, He would have frustrated rather than advanced events so sad and terrible, if they had not been His own (decrees). “But before all



5015 See above: book iii. chap. xv. and xvi. pp. 333, 334.

5016 The *illam* here refers to the *nominum* proprietas, i.e., His title Christ and His name Jesus.

5017 Transnominaret.

5018 Proinde.

5019 [Luke xxi. 8.](#)

5020 Consimilem: of course Marcion's Christ; the Marcionite being challenged in the “*you*.”

5021 [Luke xxi. 9–11.](#)

5022 Compare, in [Luke xxi.](#), verses 9, 22, 28, 31–33, 35, and 36.

these,” He foretells that persecutions and sufferings were to come upon them, which indeed were “to turn for a testimony to them,” and for their salvation.⁵⁰²³ Hear what is predicted in Zechariah: “The Lord of hosts⁵⁰²⁴ shall protect them; and they shall devour them, and subdue them with sling-stones; and they shall drink their blood like wine, and they shall fill the bowls as it were of the altar. And the Lord shall save them in that day, even His people, like sheep; because as sacred stones they roll,”⁵⁰²⁵ etc. And that you may not suppose that these predictions refer to such sufferings as await them from so many wars with strangers,⁵⁰²⁶ consider the nature (of the sufferings). In a prophecy of wars which were to be waged with legitimate arms, no one would think of enumerating stones as weapons, which are better known in popular crowds and unarmed tumults. Nobody measures the copious streams of blood which flow in war by bowlfuls, nor limits it to what is shed upon a single altar. No one gives the name of sheep to those who fall in battle with arms in hand, and while repelling force with force, but only to those who are slain, yielding themselves up in their own place of duty and with patience, rather than fighting in self-defence. In short, as he says, “they roll as sacred stones,” and not like soldiers fight. Stones are they, even foundation stones, upon which we are ourselves edified—“built,” as St. Paul says, “upon the foundation of the apostles,”⁵⁰²⁷ who, like “consecrated stones,” were rolled up and down exposed to the attack of all men. And therefore in this passage He forbids men “to meditate before what they answer” when brought before tribunals,⁵⁰²⁸ even as once He suggested to Balaam the message which he had not thought of,⁵⁰²⁹ nay, contrary to what he had thought; and promised “a mouth” to Moses, when he pleaded in excuse the slowness of his speech,⁵⁰³⁰ and that wisdom which, by Isaiah, He showed to be irresistible: “One shall say, I am the Lord’s, and shall call himself by the name of Jacob, and another shall subscribe himself by the name of Israel.”⁵⁰³¹ Now, what plea is wiser and more irresistible than the simple and open⁵⁰³² confession made in a martyr’s cause, who “prevails with God”—which is what “Israel” means?⁵⁰³³ Now, one cannot wonder that He forbade “premeditation,” who actually Himself received from the

5023 [Verses 12, 13.](#)

5024 Omnipotens: παντοκράτωρ (Sept.); of hosts—A.V.

5025 [Zech. ix. 15, 16](#) (Septuagint).

5026 Allophylis.

5027 [Eph. ii. 20.](#)

5028 [Luke xxi. 12–14.](#)

5029 [Num. xxii.–xxiv.](#)

5030 [Ex. iv. 10–12.](#)

5031 [Isa. xlv. 5.](#)

5032 Exserta.

5033 See [Gen. xxxii. 28.](#)

Father the ability of uttering words in season: “The Lord hath given to me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season (to him that is weary);”⁵⁰³⁴ except that Marcion introduces to us a Christ who is not subject to the Father. That persecutions from one’s nearest friends are predicted, and calumny out of hatred to His name,⁵⁰³⁵ I need not again refer to. But “by patience,”⁵⁰³⁶ says He, “ye shall yourselves be saved.”⁵⁰³⁷ Of this very patience the Psalm says, “The patient endurance of the just shall not perish for ever;”⁵⁰³⁸ because it is said in another Psalm, “Precious (in the sight of the Lord) is the death of the just”—arising, no doubt, out of their patient endurance, so that Zechariah declares: “A crown shall be to them that endure.”⁵⁰³⁹ But that you may not boldly contend that it was as announcers of another god that the apostles were persecuted by the Jews, remember that even the prophets suffered the same treatment of the Jews, and that they were not the heralds of any other god than the Creator. Then, having shown what was to be the period of the destruction, even “when Jerusalem should begin to be compassed with armies,”⁵⁰⁴⁰ He described the signs of the end of all things: “portents in the sun, and the moon, and the stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity—like the sea roaring—by reason of their expectation of the evils which are coming on the earth.”⁵⁰⁴¹

That “the very powers also of heaven have to be shaken,”⁵⁰⁴² you may find in Joel: “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth—blood and fire, and pillars of smoke; the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come.”⁵⁰⁴³ In Habakkuk also you have this statement: “With rivers shall the earth be cleaved; the nations shall see thee, and be in pangs. Thou shalt disperse the waters with thy step; the deep uttered its voice; the height of its fear was raised,⁵⁰⁴⁴ the sun and the moon stood still in their course; into light shall thy coruscations go; and thy shield shall be (like) the glittering of the lightning’s flash; in thine anger thou shalt grind the earth,



5034 Isa. l. 4.

5035 Luke xxi. 16, 17.

5036 Per tolerantiam: “endurance.”

5037 Comp. Luke xxi. 19 with Matt. xxiv. 13.

5038 Ps. ix. 18.

5039 After the Septuagint he makes a plural appellative (“eis qui toleraverint,” LXX. τοῖς ὑπομένονσι) of the

Hebrew לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, which in A.V. and the Vulgate (and also Gesenius and Fuerst) is the dative of a proper name.

5040 Luke xxi. 20.

5041 Luke xxi. 25, 26.

5042 Luke xxi. 26.

5043 Joel iii. 30, 31.

5044 Elata: “fear was raised to its very highest.”

and shalt thresh the nations in thy wrath.”⁵⁰⁴⁵ There is thus an agreement, I apprehend, between the sayings of the Lord and of the prophets touching the shaking of the earth, and the elements, and the nations thereof. But what does the Lord say afterwards? “And then shall they see the Son of man coming from the heavens with very great power. And when these things shall come to pass, ye shall look up, and raise your heads; for your redemption hath come near,” that is, at the time of the kingdom, of which the parable itself treats.⁵⁰⁴⁶ “So likewise ye, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.”⁵⁰⁴⁷ This will be the great day of the Lord, and of the glorious coming of the Son of man from heaven, of which Daniel wrote: “Behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven,”⁵⁰⁴⁸ etc. “And there was given unto Him the kingly power,”⁵⁰⁴⁹ which (in the parable) “He went away into a far country to receive for Himself,” leaving money to His servants wherewithal to trade and get increase⁵⁰⁵⁰—even (that universal kingdom of) all nations, which in the Psalm the Father had promised to give to Him: Ask of me, and I will give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance.”⁵⁰⁵¹ “And all that glory shall serve Him; His dominion shall be an everlasting one, which shall not be taken from Him, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed,”⁵⁰⁵² because in it “men shall not die, neither shall they marry, but be like the angels.”⁵⁰⁵³ It is about the same advent of the Son of man and the benefits thereof that we read in Habakkuk: “Thou wentest forth for the salvation of Thy people, even to save Thine anointed ones,”⁵⁰⁵⁴—in other words, those who shall look up and lift their heads, being redeemed in the time of His kingdom. Since, therefore, these descriptions of the promises, on the one hand, agree together, as do also those of the great catastrophes, on the other—both in the predictions of the prophets and the declarations of the Lord, it will be impossible for you to interpose any distinction between them, as if the catastrophes could be referred to the Creator, as the terrible God, being such as the good god (of Marcion) ought not to permit, much less expect—whilst the promises should be ascribed to the good god, being such as the Creator, in His ignorance of the said god, could not have predicted. If, however, He did predict these promises as His own, since they differ

5045 [Hab. iii. 9–12](#) (Septuagint).

5046 [Luke xxi. 27, 28](#).

5047 [Luke xxi. 31](#).

5048 [Dan. vii. 13](#).

5049 [Dan. vii. 14](#).

5050 [Luke xix. 12, 13](#), etc.

5051 [Ps. ii. 8](#).

5052 [Dan. vii. 14](#).

5053 [Luke xx. 35, 36](#).

5054 [Hab. iii. 13](#).

in no respect from the promises of Christ, He will be a match in the freeness of His gifts with the good god himself; and evidently no more will have been promised by your Christ than by my Son of man. (If you examine) the whole passage of this Gospel Scripture, from the inquiry of the disciples⁵⁰⁵⁵ down to the parable of the fig-tree⁵⁰⁵⁶ you will find the sense in its connection suit in every point the Son of man, so that it consistently ascribes to Him both the sorrows and the joys, and the catastrophes and the promises; nor can you separate them from Him in either respect. For as much, then, as there is but one Son of man whose advent is placed between the two issues of catastrophe and promise, it must needs follow that to that one Son of man belong both the judgments upon the nations, and the prayers of the saints. He who thus comes in midway so as to be common to both issues, will terminate one of them by inflicting judgment on the nations at His coming; and will at the same time commence the other by fulfilling the prayers of His saints: so that if (on the one hand) you grant that the coming of the Son of man is (the advent) of *my Christ*, then, when you ascribe to Him the infliction of the judgments which precede His appearance, you are compelled also to assign to Him the blessings which issue from the same. If (on the other hand) you will have it that it is the coming of *your Christ*, then, when you ascribe to him the blessings which are to be the result of his advent, you are obliged to impute to him likewise the infliction of the evils which precede his appearance. For the evils which precede, and the blessings which immediately follow, the coming of the Son of man, are both alike indissolubly connected with that event. Consider, therefore, which of the two Christs you choose to place in the person of the Son of man, to whom you may refer the execution of the two dispensations. You make either the Creator a most beneficent God, or else your own god terrible in his nature! Reflect, in short, on the picture presented in the parable: "Behold the fig-tree, and all the trees; when they produce their fruit, men know that summer is at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is very near."⁵⁰⁵⁷ Now, if the fructification of the common trees⁵⁰⁵⁸ be an antecedent sign of the approach of summer, so in like manner do the great conflicts of the world indicate the arrival of that kingdom which they precede. But every sign is His, to whom belong the thing of which it is the sign; and to everything is appointed its sign by Him to whom the thing belongs. If, therefore, these tribulations are the signs of the kingdom, just as the maturity of the trees is of the summer, it follows that the kingdom is the Creator's to whom are ascribed the tribulations which are the signs of the kingdom. Since the beneficent Deity had premised that these things must needs come to pass, although so terrible and dreadful, as they had



5055 In [Luke xxi. 7.](#)

5056 [Luke xxi. 33.](#)

5057 [Luke xxi. 29-31.](#)

5058 [Arbuscularum.](#)

been predicted by the law and the prophets, therefore He did not destroy the law and the prophets, when He affirmed that what had been foretold therein must be certainly fulfilled. He further declares, “that heaven and earth shall not pass away till all things be fulfilled.”⁵⁰⁵⁹ What things, pray, are these? Are they the things which the Creator made? Then the elements will tractably endure the accomplishment of their Maker’s dispensation. If, however, they emanate from your excellent god, I much doubt whether⁵⁰⁶⁰ the heaven and earth will peaceably allow the completion of things which their Creator’s enemy has determined! If the Creator quietly submits to this, then He is no “jealous God.” But let heaven and earth pass away, since their Lord has so determined; only let His word remain for evermore! And so Isaiah predicted that it should.⁵⁰⁶¹ Let the disciples also be warned, “lest their hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and cares of this world; and so that day come upon them unawares, like a snare”⁵⁰⁶²—if indeed they should forget God amidst the abundance and occupation of the world. Like this will be found the admonition of Moses,—so that He who delivers from “the snare” of that day is none other than He who so long before addressed to men the same admonition.⁵⁰⁶³ Some places there were in Jerusalem where to teach; other places outside Jerusalem whither to retire⁵⁰⁶⁴—“in the day-time He was teaching in the temple;” just as He had foretold by Hosea: “In my house did they find me, and there did I speak with them.”⁵⁰⁶⁵ “But at night He went out to the Mount of Olives.” For thus had Zechariah pointed out: “And His feet shall stand in that day on the Mount of Olives.”⁵⁰⁶⁶ Fit hours for an audience there also were. “Early in the morning”⁵⁰⁶⁷ must they resort to Him, who (having said by Isaiah, “The Lord giveth me the tongue of the learned”) added, “He hath appointed me the morning, and hath also given me an ear to hear.”⁵⁰⁶⁸ Now if this is to *destroy* the prophets,⁵⁰⁶⁹ what will it be to *fulfil* them?

5059 [Luke xxi. 33.](#)

5060 [Nescio an.](#)

5061 [Isa. xl. 8.](#)

5062 [Luke xxi. 34, 35.](#) [Here follows a rich selection of parallels to [Luke xxi. 34–38.](#)]

5063 [Comp. Deut. viii. 12–14.](#)

5064 [Luke xxi. 37.](#)

5065 [Hosea xii. 4.](#) One reading of the LXX. is, ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ μου εὔρεσάν με.

5066 [Zech. xiv. 4.](#)

5067 [Luke xxi. 38.](#)

5068 [Isa. l. 4.](#)

5069 Literally, “the prophecies.”

Chapter XL.—How the Steps in the Passion of the Saviour Were Predetermined in Prophecy. The Passover. The Treachery of Judas. The Institution of the Lord's Supper. The Docetic Error of Marcion Confuted by the Body and the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In like manner does He also know the very time it behoved Him to suffer, since the law prefigures His passion. Accordingly, of all the festal days of the Jews He chose the passover.⁵⁰⁷⁰ In this Moses had declared that there was a sacred mystery:⁵⁰⁷¹ “It is the Lord's passover.”⁵⁰⁷² How earnestly, therefore, does He manifest the bent of His soul: “With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer.”⁵⁰⁷³ What a destroyer of the law was this, who actually longed to keep its passover! Could it be that He was so fond of Jewish lamb?⁵⁰⁷⁴ But was it not because He had to be “led like a lamb to the slaughter; and because, as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so was He not to open His mouth,”⁵⁰⁷⁵ that He so profoundly wished to accomplish the symbol of His own redeeming blood? He might also have been betrayed by any stranger, did I not find that even here too He fulfilled a Psalm: “He who did eat bread with me hath lifted up⁵⁰⁷⁶ his heel against me.”⁵⁰⁷⁷ And without a price might He have been betrayed. For what need of a traitor was there in the case of one who offered Himself to the people openly, and might quite as easily have been captured by force as taken by treachery? This might no doubt have been well enough for another Christ, but would not have been suitable in One who was accomplishing prophecies. For it was written, “The righteous one did they sell for silver.”⁵⁰⁷⁸ The very amount and the destination⁵⁰⁷⁹ of the money, which on Judas' remorse was recalled *from its first purpose of a fee*,⁵⁰⁸⁰ and appropriated to the purchase of a potter's field, as narrated in the Gospel of Matthew, were clearly foretold by Jeremiah:⁵⁰⁸¹ “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price



5070 [Luke xxii. i.](#)

5071 [Sacramentum.](#)

5072 [Lev. xxiii. 5.](#)

5073 [Luke xxii. 15.](#)

5074 [Vervicina Judaica.](#) In this rough sarcasm we have of course our author's contempt of Marcionism.

5075 [Isa. liii. 7.](#)

5076 [Levabit:](#) literally, “shall lift up,” etc.

5077 [Ps. xli. 9.](#)

5078 [Amos ii. 6.](#)

5079 [Exitum.](#)

5080 [Revocati.](#)

5081 This passage more nearly resembles [Zech. xi. 12 and 13](#) than anything in Jeremiah, although the transaction in [Jer. xxxii. 7–15](#) is noted by the commentators, as referred to. Tertullian had good reason for mentioning Jeremiah and not Zechariah, because the apostle whom he refers to ([Matt. xxvii. 3–10](#)) had distinctly attributed

of Him who was valued⁵⁰⁸² and gave them for the potter's field." When He so earnestly expressed His desire to eat the passover, He considered it *His own* feast; for it would have been unworthy of God to desire to partake of what was not His own. Then, having taken the bread and given it to His disciples, He made it His own body, by saying, "This is my body,"⁵⁰⁸³ that is, the figure of my body. A figure, however, there could not have been, unless there were first a veritable body.⁵⁰⁸⁴ An empty thing, or phantom, is incapable of a figure. If, however, (as Marcion might say,) He pretended the bread was His body, because He lacked the truth of bodily substance, it follows that He must have given bread for us. It would contribute very well to the support of Marcion's theory of a phantom body,⁵⁰⁸⁵ that bread should have been crucified! But why call His body bread, and not rather (some other edible thing, say) a melon,⁵⁰⁸⁶ which Marcion must have had in lieu of a heart! He did not understand how ancient was this figure of the body of Christ, who said Himself by Jeremiah: "I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter, and I knew not that"⁵⁰⁸⁷ they devised a device against me, saying, *Let us cast the tree upon His bread,*"⁵⁰⁸⁸ which means, of course, the cross upon His body. And thus, casting light, as He always did, upon the ancient prophecies,⁵⁰⁸⁹ He declared plainly enough what He meant by the *bread*, when He called

the prophecy to Jeremiah ("Jeremy the prophet," ver. 9). This is not the place to do more than merely refer to the voluminous controversy which has arisen from the apostle's mention of Jeremiah instead of Zechariah. It is enough to remark that Tertullian's argument is unaffected by the discrepancy in the name of the particular prophet. On all hands *the prophecy* is admitted, and this at once satisfies our author's argument. For the ms. evidence in favour of the unquestionably correct reading, τότε ἐπληρώθη τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ Ἱερεμίου τοῦ προφήτου, κ.τ.λ., the reader is referred to Dr. Tregelles' *Critical Greek Testament*, in *loc.*; only to the convincing amount of evidence collected by the very learned editor must now be added the subsequently obtained authority of Tischendorf's *Codex Sinaiticus*.

5082 Appretiati vel honorati. There is nothing in the original or the Septuagint to meet the second word *honorati*, which may refer to the "*honorarium*," or "fee paid on admission to a post of honour,"—a term of Roman law, and referred to by Tertullian himself.

5083 Luke xxii. 19. [See Jewell's Challenge, p. 266, *supra*.]

5084 Corpus veritatis: meant as a thrust against Marcion's *Docetism*.

5085 Ad vanitatem Marcionis. [Note 9, p. 289.]

5086 Peponem. In his *De Anima*, c. xxxii., he uses this word in strong irony: "Cur non magis et *pepo*, tam insulsus."

5087 [This text, imperfectly quoted in the original, is filled out by Dr. Holmes.]

5088 So the Septuagint in Jer. xi. 19, ἐύλον εἰς τὸν ἄρτον αὐτοῦ (A.V. "Let us destroy the tree with the fruit"). See above, book iii. chap. xix. p. 337.

5089 Illuminator antiquitatum. This general phrase includes typical ordinances under the law, as well as the sayings of the prophets.

the bread His own body. He likewise, when mentioning the cup and making the *new* testament to be sealed “in His blood,”⁵⁰⁹⁰ affirms the reality of His body. For no blood can belong to a body which is not *a body* of flesh. If any sort of body were presented to our view, which is not one of flesh, not being fleshly, it would not possess blood. Thus, from the evidence of the flesh, we get a proof of the body, and a proof of the flesh from the evidence of the blood. In order, however, that you may discover how anciently wine is used as a figure for blood, turn to Isaiah, who asks, “Who is this that cometh from Edom, from Bosor with garments dyed in red, so glorious in His apparel, in the greatness of his might? Why are thy garments red, and thy raiment as his who cometh from the treading of the full winepress?”⁵⁰⁹¹ The prophetic Spirit contemplates the Lord as if He were already on His way to His passion, clad in His fleshly nature; and as He was to suffer therein, He represents the bleeding condition of His flesh under the metaphor of garments dyed in red, as if reddened in the treading and crushing process of the wine-press, from which the labourers descend reddened with the wine-juice, like men stained in blood. Much more clearly still does the book of Genesis foretell this, when (in the blessing of Judah, out of whose tribe Christ was to come according to the flesh) it even then delineated Christ in the person of that patriarch,⁵⁰⁹² saying, “He washed His garments in wine, and His clothes in the blood of grapes”⁵⁰⁹³—in His garments and clothes the prophecy pointed out his flesh, and His blood in the wine. Thus did He now consecrate His blood in wine, who then (by the patriarch) used the figure of wine to describe His blood.



5090 [Luke xxii. 20.](#)

5091 [Isa. lxiii. 1](#) (Sept. slightly altered).

5092 In [Juda](#).

5093 [Gen. xlix. 11.](#)

Chapter XLI.—The Woe Pronounced on the Traitor a Judicial Act, Which Disproves Christ to Be Such as Marcion Would Have Him to Be. Christ’s Conduct Before the Council Explained. Christ Even Then Directs the Minds of His Judges to the Prophetic Evidences of His Own Mission. The Moral Responsibility of These Men Asserted.

“Woe,” says He, “to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed!”⁵⁰⁹⁴ Now it is certain that in this *woe* must be understood the imprecation and threat of an angry and incensed Master, unless Judas was to escape with impunity after so vast a sin. If he were meant to escape with impunity, the “*woe*” was an idle word; if not, he was of course to be punished by Him against whom he had committed the sin of treachery. Now, if He knowingly permitted the man, whom He⁵⁰⁹⁵ deliberately elected to be one of His companions, to plunge into so great a crime, you must no longer use an argument against the Creator in Adam’s case, which may now recoil on your own God:⁵⁰⁹⁶ either that he was *ignorant*, and had no foresight to hinder the future sinner;⁵⁰⁹⁷ or that he was *unable* to hinder him, even if he was ignorant;⁵⁰⁹⁸ or else that he was *unwilling*, even if he had the foreknowledge and the ability; and so deserved the stigma of maliciousness, in having permitted the man of his own choice to perish in his sin. I advise you therefore (willingly) to acknowledge the Creator in that god of yours, rather than against your will to be assimilating your excellent god to Him. For in the case of Peter,⁵⁰⁹⁹ too, he gives you proof that he is a jealous God, when he destined the apostle, after his presumptuous protestations of zeal, to a flat denial of him, rather than *prevent his fall*.⁵¹⁰⁰ The Christ of the prophets was destined, moreover, to be betrayed with a kiss,⁵¹⁰¹ for He was the Son indeed of Him who was “honoured *with the lips*” by the people.⁵¹⁰² When led before the council, He is asked whether He is the Christ.⁵¹⁰³ Of what

5094 [Luke xxii. 22.](#)

5095 Ipse.

5096 This is an *argumentum ad hominem* against Marcion for his cavil, which was considered above in book ii. chap. v.–viii. p. 300.

5097 Obstitit peccaturo.

5098 Si ignorabat. One would have expected “*si non ignorabat*,” like the “*si sciebat*” of the next step in the argument.

5099 The original of this not very clear sentence is: “*Nam et Petrum præsumptorie aliquid elocutum negationi potius destinando zeloten deum tibi ostendit.*”

5100 [Luke xxii. 34 and 54–62.](#)

5101 [Luke xxii. 47–49.](#)

5102 [Isa. xxix. 13.](#)

5103 [Luke xxii. 66, 67.](#)

Christ could the Jews have inquired⁵¹⁰⁴ but their own? Why, therefore, did He not, even at that moment, declare to them the rival (Christ)? You reply, In order that He might be able to suffer. In other words, that this most excellent god might plunge men into crime, whom he was still keeping in ignorance. But even if he had told them, he would yet have to suffer. For he said, “If I tell you, ye will not believe.”⁵¹⁰⁵ And refusing to believe, they would have continued to insist on his death. And would he not even more probably still have had to suffer, if had announced himself as sent by the rival god, and as being, therefore, the enemy of the Creator? It was not, then, in order that He might suffer, that He at that critical moment refrained from proclaiming⁵¹⁰⁶ Himself the other *Christ*, but because they wanted to extort a confession from His mouth, which they did not mean to believe even if He had given it to them, whereas it was their bounden duty to have acknowledged Him in consequence of His works, which were fulfilling their Scriptures. It was thus plainly His course to keep Himself at that moment unrevealed,⁵¹⁰⁷ because a spontaneous recognition was due to Him. But yet for all this, He with a solemn gesture⁵¹⁰⁸ says, “Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.”⁵¹⁰⁹ For it was on the authority of the prophecy of Daniel that He intimated to them that He was “the Son of man,”⁵¹¹⁰ and of David’s Psalm, that He would “sit at the right hand of God.”⁵¹¹¹ Accordingly, after He had said this, and so suggested a comparison of the Scripture, a ray of light did seem to show them whom He would have them understand Him to be; for they say: “Art thou then the Son of God?”⁵¹¹² Of what God, but of Him whom alone they knew? Of what God but of Him whom they remembered in the Psalm as having said to His Son, “Sit Thou on my right hand?” Then He answered, “Ye say that I am;”⁵¹¹³ as if He meant: It is *ye* who say this—not I. But at the same time He allowed Himself to be all that they had said, in this their second question.⁵¹¹⁴ By what means, however, are you going to prove to us that they pronounced the sentence “*Ergo tu filius Dei es*” interrogatively, and not affirmatively?⁵¹¹⁵ Just as, (on the one hand,) because



5104 Oehler’s admirable edition is also carefully *printed* for the most part, but surely his *quæsisset* must here be *quæsisset*.

5105 [Luke xxii. 67.](#)

5106 *Supersedit ostendere.*

5107 i.e., not to answer that question of theirs. This seems to be the force of the perfect tense, “*occultasse se.*”

5108 He makes Jesus stretch forth His hand, *porrigens manum* inquit.

5109 [Luke xxii. 69.](#)

5110 [Dan. vii. 13.](#)

5111 [Ps. cx. 1.](#)

5112 [Luke xxii. 70.](#)

5113 [Luke xxii. 70.](#)

5114 Or does he suppose that they repeated this same question *twice*? His words are, “*dum rursus interrogant.*”

5115 Either, “Art thou,” or, “Thou art, then, the Son of God.”

He had shown them in an indirect manner,⁵¹¹⁶ by passages of Scripture, that they ought to regard Him as the Son of God, they therefore meant their own words, “Thou art then the Son of God,” to be taken in a like (indirect) sense,⁵¹¹⁷ as much as to say, “You do not wish to say this of yourself plainly,”⁵¹¹⁸ so, (on the other hand,) He likewise answered them, “Ye say that I am,” in a sense equally free from doubt, even affirmatively,⁵¹¹⁹ and so completely was His statement to this effect, that they insisted on accepting that sense which His statement indicated.⁵¹²⁰

5116 Oblique.

5117 Ut, quia...sic senserunt.

5118 Aperte.

5119 Æque ita et ille confirmative respondit.

5120 Ut perseveraverint in eo quod pronuntiatio sapiebat....See [Luke xxii. 71.](#)

Chapter XLII.—Other Incidents of the Passion Minutely Compared with Prophecy. Pilate and Herod. Barabbas Preferred to Jesus. Details of the Crucifixion. The Earthquake and the Mid-Day Darkness. All Wonderfully Foretold in the Scriptures of the Creator. Christ's Giving Up the Ghost No Evidence of Marcion's Docetic Opinions. In His Sepulture There is a Refutation Thereof.

For when He was brought before Pilate, they proceeded to urge Him with the serious charge⁵¹²¹, of declaring Himself to be *Christ the King*,⁵¹²² that is, undoubtedly, as the Son of God, who was to sit at God's right hand. They would, however, have burdened Him⁵¹²³ with some other title, if they had been uncertain whether He had called Himself *the Son of God*—if He had not pronounced the words, “Ye say that I am,” so as (to admit) that He was that which they said He was. Likewise, when Pirate asked Him, “Art thou Christ (the King)?” He answered, as He had before (to the Jewish council)⁵¹²⁴ “Thou sayest that I am”⁵¹²⁵ in order that He might not seem to have been driven by a fear of his power to give him a fuller answer. “And so the Lord hath stood on His trial.”⁵¹²⁶ And he placed His people on their trial. The Lord Himself comes to a trial with “the elders and rulers of the people,” as Isaiah predicted.⁵¹²⁷ And then He fulfilled all that had been written of His passion. At that time “the heathen raged, and the people imagined vain things; the kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers gathered themselves together against the Lord and against His Christ.”⁵¹²⁸ The *heathen* were Pilate and the Romans; the *people* were the tribes of Israel; the *kings* were represented in Herod, and the *rulers* in the chief priests. When, indeed, He was sent to Herod gratuitously⁵¹²⁹ by Pilate,⁵¹³⁰ the words of Hosea were accomplished, for he had prophesied of Christ: “And they shall carry Him bound as a present to the king.”⁵¹³¹ Herod was “exceeding glad” when he saw Jesus, but he heard not a word from Him.⁵¹³² For, “as a lamb

5121 Onerare cœperunt.

5122 “King Messiah;” λέγοντα ἑαυτὸν Χριστὸν βασιλέα εἶναι, [Luke xxiii. 1, 2.](#)

5123 Gravassent.

5124 Proinde.

5125 [Luke xxiii. 3.](#)

5126 Constitutus est in judicio. The Septuagint is καταστήσεται εἰς κρίσιν, “shall stand on His trial.”

5127 [Isa. iii. 13, 14](#) (Septuagint).

5128 [Ps. ii. 1, 2.](#)

5129 Velut munus. This is a definition, in fact, of the *xenium* in the verse from Hosea. This ξένιον was the Roman *lautia*, “a state entertainment to distinguished foreigners in the city.”

5130 [Luke xxiii. 7.](#)

5131 [Hos. x. 6](#) (Sept. ξένια τῷ βασιλεῖ).

5132 [Luke xxiii. 8, 9.](#)

before the shearer is dumb, so He opened not His mouth,⁵¹³³ because “the Lord had given to Him a disciplined tongue, that he might know how and when it behoved Him to speak”⁵¹³⁴—even that “tongue which clove to His jaws,” as the Psalm⁵¹³⁵ said it should, through His not speaking. Then Barabbas, the most abandoned criminal, is released, as if he were the innocent man; while the most righteous Christ is delivered to be put to death, as if he were the murderer.⁵¹³⁶ Moreover two malefactors are crucified around Him, in order that He might be reckoned amongst the transgressors.⁵¹³⁷ Although His raiment was, without doubt, parted among the soldiers, and partly distributed by lot, yet Marcion has erased it all (from his Gospel),⁵¹³⁸ for he had his eye upon the Psalm: “They parted my garments amongst them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”⁵¹³⁹ You may as well take away the cross itself! But even then the Psalm is not silent concerning it: “They pierced my hands and my feet.”⁵¹⁴⁰ Indeed, the details of the whole event are therein read: “Dogs compassed me about; the assembly of the wicked enclosed me around. All that looked upon me laughed me to scorn; they did shoot out their lips and shake their heads, (saying,) He hoped in God, let Him deliver Him.”⁵¹⁴¹ Of what use now is (your tampering with) the testimony of His garments? If you take it as a booty for your false Christ, still all the Psalm (compensates) the vesture of Christ.⁵¹⁴² But, behold, the very elements are shaken. For their Lord was suffering. If, however, it was their enemy to whom all this injury was done, the heaven would have gleamed with light, the sun would have been even more radiant, and the day would have prolonged its course⁵¹⁴³—gladly gazing at Marcion’s Christ suspended on his gibbet!



5133 [Isa. liii. 7.](#)

5134 [Isa. l. 4 \(Sept.\).](#)

5135 [Ps. xxii. 15.](#)

5136 [Luke xxiii. 25.](#)

5137 [Comp. Luke xxiii. 33 with Isa. liii. 12.](#)

5138 This remarkable suppression was made to escape the wonderful minuteness of *the prophetic* evidence to the details of Christ’s death.

5139 [Ps. xxii. 18.](#)

5140 [Ps. xxii. 16.](#)

5141 [Ps. xxii. 16, 7, 8.](#)

5142 We append the original of these obscure sentences: “Quo jam testimonium vestimentorum? Habe falsi tui prædam; totus psalmus vestimenta sunt Christi.” The general sense is apparent. If Marcion does suppress the details about Christ’s garments at the cross, to escape the inconvenient proof they afford that Christ is the object of prophecies, yet there are so many other points of agreement between this wonderful Psalm and St. Luke’s history of the crucifixion (not expunged, as it would seem, by the heretic), that they quite compensate for the loss of this passage about the garments (Oehler).

5143 [Comp. Josh. x. 13.](#)

These proofs⁵¹⁴⁴ would still have been suitable for me, even if they had not been the subject of prophecy. Isaiah says: "I will clothe the heavens with blackness."⁵¹⁴⁵ This will be the day, concerning which Amos also writes: And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that the sun shall go down at noon and the earth shall be dark in the clear day."⁵¹⁴⁶ (At noon)⁵¹⁴⁷ the veil of the temple was rent"⁵¹⁴⁸ by the escape of the cherubim,⁵¹⁴⁹ which "left the daughter of Sion as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers."⁵¹⁵⁰ With what constancy has He also, in [Psalm xxx.](#), laboured to present to us the very Christ! He calls with a loud voice to the Father, "Into Thine hands I commend my spirit,"⁵¹⁵¹ that even when dying He might expend His last breath in fulfilling the prophets. Having said this, He gave up the ghost."⁵¹⁵² Who? Did the spirit⁵¹⁵³ give itself up; or the flesh the spirit? But the spirit could not have breathed itself out. That which breathes is one thing, that which is breathed is another. If the spirit is breathed it must needs be breathed by another. If, however, there had been nothing there but spirit, it would be said to have *departed* rather than *expired*.⁵¹⁵⁴ What, however, breathes out spirit but the flesh, which both *breathes* the spirit whilst it has it, and *breathes it out* when it loses it? Indeed, if it was not flesh (upon the cross), but a phantom⁵¹⁵⁵ of flesh (and⁵¹⁵⁶ a phantom is but spirit, and⁵¹⁵⁷ so the spirit breathed its own self out, and departed as it did so), no doubt the phantom departed, when the spirit which was the phantom departed: and so the phantom and the spirit disappeared together, and were nowhere to be seen.⁵¹⁵⁸ Nothing therefore remained upon the cross, nothing hung there, after "the giving up of the ghost;"⁵¹⁵⁹ there was nothing to beg of Pilate, nothing to take down from the cross, nothing to wrap in the linen, nothing to lay in the new

5144 Argumenta.

5145 [Isa. l. 3.](#)

5146 [Amos viii. 9.](#)

5147 Here you have the meaning of the sixth hour.

5148 [Luke xxiii. 45.](#)

5149 [Ezek. xi. 22, 23.](#)

5150 [Isa. i. 8.](#)

5151 Comp. [Luke xxiii. 46](#) with [Ps. xxxi. 5.](#)

5152 [Luke xxiii. 46.](#)

5153 Spiritus: or "breath."

5154 Expirasse: considered *actively*, "breathed out," in reference to the "*expiravit*" of the [verse 46](#) above.

5155 A sharp rebuke of Marcion's *Docetism* here follows.

5156 Autem.

5157 Autem.

5158 Nusquam comparuit phantasma cum spiritu.

5159 Post expirationem.

sepulchre.⁵¹⁶⁰ Still it was not *nothing*⁵¹⁶¹ that was there. What was there, then? If a phantom Christ was yet there. If Christ had departed, He had taken away the phantom also. The only shift left to the impudence of the heretics, is to admit that what remained there was the phantom of a phantom! But what if Joseph knew that it was a body which he treated with so much piety?⁵¹⁶² That same Joseph “who had not consented” with the Jews in their crime?⁵¹⁶³ The “happy man who walked not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seat of the scornful.”⁵¹⁶⁴

5160 See these stages in [Luke xxiii. 47–55](#).

5161 Non nihil: “a something.”

5162 This argument is also used by Epiphanius to prove the reality of Christ’s body, *Hæres. xl. Confut. 74*. The same writer also employs for the same purpose the incident of *the women returning from the sepulchre*, which Tertullian is going to adduce in his next chapter, *Confut. 75 (Oehler)*.

5163 [Luke xxiii. 51](#).

5164 [Ps. i. 1](#).

Chapter XLIII.—Conclusions. Jesus as the Christ of the Creator Proved from the Events of the Last Chapter of St. Luke. The Pious Women at the Sepulchre. The Angels at the Resurrection. The Manifold Appearances of Christ After the Resurrection. His Mission of the Apostles Amongst All Nations. All Shown to Be in Accordance with the Wisdom of the Almighty Father, as Indicated in Prophecy. The Body of Christ After Death No Mere Phantom. Marcion's Manipulation of the Gospel on This Point.

It was very meet that the man who buried the Lord should thus be noticed in prophecy, and thenceforth be "blessed;"⁵¹⁶⁵ since prophecy does not omit the (pious) office of the women who resorted before day-break to the sepulchre with the spices which they had prepared.⁵¹⁶⁶ For of this incident it is said by Hosea: "To seek my face they will watch till daylight, saying unto me, Come, and let us return to the Lord: for He hath taken away, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up; after two days will He revive us: in the third day He will raise us up."⁵¹⁶⁷ For who can refuse to believe that these words often revolved⁵¹⁶⁸ in the thought of those women between the sorrow of that desertion with which at present they seemed to themselves to have been smitten by the Lord, and the hope of the resurrection itself, by which they rightly supposed that all would be restored to them? But when "they found not the body (of the Lord Jesus),"⁵¹⁶⁹ "His sepulture was removed from the midst of them,"⁵¹⁷⁰ according to the prophecy of Isaiah. "Two angels however, appeared there."⁵¹⁷¹ For just so many honorary companions⁵¹⁷² were required by the word of God, which usually prescribes "*two witnesses*."⁵¹⁷³ Moreover, the women, returning from the sepulchre, and from this vision of the angels, were foreseen by Isaiah, when he says, "Come, ye women, who return from the vision;"⁵¹⁷⁴ that is, "come," to report the resurrection of the Lord. It was well, however, that the unbelief of the disciples was so persistent, in order that to the last we might consistently maintain that Jesus revealed Himself to the disciples as none other than the Christ of the prophets. For as two of them were taking a walk, and



5165 The *first* word of the passage just applied to Joseph.

5166 Luke xxiv. 1.

5167 Hos. v. 15 and vi. 1, 2.

5168 Volutata.

5169 Luke xxiv. 3.

5170 Isa. lvii. 2, according to the Septuagint, ἡ ταφή αὐτοῦ ἦρται ἐκ τοῦ μέσου.

5171 Luke xxiv. 4.

5172 Tot fere laterensibus.

5173 Deut. xvii. 6, xix. 15, compared with Matt. xviii. 16 and 2 Cor. xiii. 1.

5174 Isa. xxvii. 11, according to the Septuagint, γυναῖκες ἐρχόμεναι ἀπὸ θεάς, δεῦτε.

when the Lord had joined their company, without its appearing that it was He, and whilst He dissembled His knowledge of what had just taken place,⁵¹⁷⁵ they say: “But we trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel,”⁵¹⁷⁶—meaning their own, that is, the Creator’s Christ. So far had He been from declaring Himself to them as another Christ! They could not, however, deem Him to be the Christ of the Creator; nor, if He was so deemed by them, could He have tolerated this opinion concerning Himself, unless He were really He whom He was supposed to be. Otherwise He would actually be the author of error, and the prevaricator of truth, contrary to the character of the good God. But at no time even after His resurrection did He reveal Himself to them as any other than what, on their own showing, they had always thought Him to be. He pointedly⁵¹⁷⁷ reproached them: “O fools, and slow of heart in not believing that which He spake unto you.”⁵¹⁷⁸ By saying this, He proves that He does not belong to the rival god, but to the same God. For the same thing was said by the angels to the women: “Remember how He spake unto you when He was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered up, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”⁵¹⁷⁹ “*Must* be delivered up;” and why, except that it was so written by God the Creator? He therefore upbraided them, because they were offended solely at His passion, and because they doubted of the truth of the resurrection which had been reported to them by the women, whereby (they showed that) they had not believed Him to have been the very same as they had thought Him to be. Wishing, therefore, to be believed by them in this wise, He declared Himself to be just what they had deemed Him to be—the Creator’s Christ, the Redeemer of Israel. But as touching the reality of His body, what can be plainer? When they were doubting whether He were not a phantom—nay, were supposing that He was one—He says to them, “Why are ye troubled, and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? See⁵¹⁸⁰ my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; for a spirit hath not bones, as ye see me have.”⁵¹⁸¹ Now Marcion was unwilling to expunge from his Gospel some statements which even made against him—I suspect, on purpose, to have it in his power from the passages which he did not suppress, when he could have done so, either to deny that he had expunged anything, or else to justify his suppressions, if he made any. But he spares only such passages as he can subvert quite as well by explaining them away as by expunging them from the text.

5175 [Luke xxiv. 13–19.](#)

5176 [Luke xxiv. 21.](#)

5177 [Plane.](#)

5178 [Luke xxiv. 25.](#)

5179 [Luke xxiv. 6, 7.](#)

5180 [Videte.](#) The original is much stronger *ψηλαφήσατέ με καὶ ἴδετε*, “*handle me, and see.*” Two sentences thrown into one.

5181 [Luke xxiv. 37–39.](#)

Thus, in the passage before us, he would have the words, “A spirit hath not bones, as ye see me have,” so transposed, as to mean, “A spirit, such as ye see me to be, hath not bones;” that is to say, it is not the nature of a spirit to have bones. But what need of so tortuous a construction, when He might have simply said, “A spirit hath not bones, even as you observe that I have not?” Why, moreover, does He offer His hands and His feet for their examination—limbs which consist of bones—if He had no bones? Why, too, does He add, “Know that it is I myself,”⁵¹⁸² when they had before known Him to be corporeal? Else, if He were altogether a phantom, why did He upbraid them for supposing Him to be a phantom? But whilst they still believed not, He asked them for some meat,⁵¹⁸³ for the express purpose of showing them that He had teeth.⁵¹⁸⁴

And now, as I would venture to believe,⁵¹⁸⁵ we have accomplished our undertaking. We have set forth Jesus Christ as none other than the Christ of the Creator. Our proofs we have drawn from His doctrines, maxims,⁵¹⁸⁶ affections, feelings, miracles, sufferings, and even resurrection—as foretold by the prophets.⁵¹⁸⁷ Even to the last He taught us (the same truth of His mission), when He sent forth His apostles to preach His gospel “among all nations;”⁵¹⁸⁸ for He thus fulfilled the psalm: “Their sound is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.”⁵¹⁸⁹ Marcion, I pity you; your labour has been in vain. For the Jesus Christ who appears in your Gospel is mine.



5182 [Luke xxiv. 39.](#)

5183 [Luke xxiv. 41.](#)

5184 An additional proof that He was no phantom.

5185 Ut opinor.

5186 Sententiis.

5187 Prophetarum.

5188 [Luke xxiv. 47](#) and [Matt. xxviii. 19.](#)

5189 [Ps. xix. 4.](#)

Dr. Holmes' Note.

Dr. Holmes appends the following as a note to the Fourth Book. (See cap. vi. p. 351.)

The following statement, abridged from Dr. Lardner (*The History of Heretics*, chap. x. secs. 35–40), may be useful to the reader, in reference to the subject of the preceding Book:—Marcion received but eleven books of the New Testament, and these strangely curtailed and altered. He divided them into two parts, which he called τὸ Εὐαγγέλιον (*the Gospel*) and τὸ Ἀποστολικόν (*the Apostolicon*).

1. The former contained nothing more than a mutilated, and sometimes interpolated, edition of St. Luke; the name of that evangelist, however, he expunged from the beginning of his copy. [Chaps. i. and ii.](#) he rejected entirely, and began at [iii. 1](#), reading the opening verse thus: “In the xv. year of Tiberius Cæsar, God descended into Capernaum, a city of Galilee.”

2. According to Irenæus, Epiphanius, and Theodoret, he rejected the genealogy and baptism of Christ; whilst from Tertullian’s statement (chap. vii.) it seems likely that he connected what part of chap. iii.—[vers. 1, 2](#)—he chose to retain, with [chap. iv. 31](#), at a leap.

3. He further eliminated the history of the temptation. That part of [chap. iv.](#) which narrates Christ’s going into the synagogue at Nazareth and reading out of Isaiah he also rejected, and all afterwards to the end of [ver. 30](#).

4. Epiphanius mentions sundry slight alterations in capp. v. 14, 24, vi. 5, 17. In [chap. viii. 19](#) he expunged ἡ μήτηρ αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀδελφοὶ αὐτοῦ. From Tertullian’s remarks (chap. xix.), it would seem at first as if Marcion had added to his Gospel that answer of our Saviour which we find related by [St. Matthew, chap. xii. 48](#): “Who is my mother, and who are my brethren?” For he represents Marcion (as in *De carne Christi*, vii., he represents other heretics, who deny the nativity) as making use of these words for his favourite argument. But, after all, Marcion might use these words against those who allowed the authenticity of Matthew’s Gospel, without inserting them in his own Gospel; or else Tertullian might quote from memory, and think that to be in Luke which was only in Matthew—as he has done at least in three instances. (Lardner refers two of these instances to passages in chap. vii. of this Book iv., where Tertullian mentions, as erasures from Luke, what really are found in [Matthew v. 17 and xv. 24](#). The third instance referred to by Lardner probably occurs at the end of chap. ix. of this same Book iv., where Tertullian again mistakes [Matt. v. 17](#) for a passage of Luke, and charges Marcion with expunging it; curiously enough, the mistake recurs in chap. xii of the same Book.) In [Luke x. 21](#) Marcion omitted the first [πάτερ](#) and the words [καὶ τῆς γῆς](#), that he might not allow Christ to call His Father the Lord of earth, or of this world. The second [πατήρ](#) in this verse, not open to any inconvenience, he retained. In [chap. xi. 29](#) he omitted the last words concerning the sign of the prophet Jonah; he also omitted all the

30th, 31st, and 32d; in ver. 42 he read κλήσιν, ‘calling,’ instead of κρίσιν ‘judgment.’ He rejected verses 49, 50, 51, because the passage related to the prophets. He entirely omitted chap. xii. 6; whilst in ver. 8 he read ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ Θεοῦ instead of ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀγγέλων τοῦ Θεοῦ. He seems to have left out all the 28th verse, and expunged ὑμῶν from verses 30 and 32, reading only ὁ πατήρ. In ver. 38, instead of the words ἐν τῇ δευτέρᾳ φυλακῇ, καὶ ἐν τῇ τρίτῃ φυλακῇ, he read ἐν τῇ ἑσπερινῇ φυλακῇ. In chap. xiii. he omitted the first five verses, whilst in the 28th verse of the same chapter, where we read, “When ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and ye yourselves thrust out,” he read (by altering, adding, and transposing), “When ye shall see all the just in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves cast out, and bound without, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” He likewise excluded all the remaining verses of this chapter. All chap. xv. after the 10th verse, in which is contained the parable of the prodigal son, he eliminated from his Gospel. In xvii. 10 he left out all the words after λέγετε. He made many alterations in the story of the ten lepers; he left out part of ver. 12, all of ver. 13, and altered ver. 14, reading thus: “There met Him ten lepers; and He sent them away, saying, Show yourselves to the priest;” after which he inserted a clause from chap. iv. 27: “There were many lepers in the days of Eliseus the prophet, but none of them were cleansed, but Naaman the Syrian.” In chap. xviii. 19 he added the words ὁ πατήρ, and in ver. 20 altered οἶδας, *thou knowest*, into the first person. He entirely omitted verses 31–33, in which our blessed Saviour declares that the things foretold by the prophets concerning His sufferings, and death, and resurrection, should all be fulfilled. He expunged nineteen verses out of chap. xix., from the end of ver. 27 to the beginning of ver. 47. In chap. xx. he omitted ten verses, from the end of ver. 8 to the end of ver. 18. He rejected also verses 37 and 38, in which there is a reference to Moses. Marcion also erased of chap. xxi. the first eighteen verses, as well as verses 21 and 22, on account of this clause, “that all things which are written may be fulfilled;” xx. 16 was left out by him, so also verses 35–37, 50, and 51 (and, adds Lardner, conjecturally, not herein following his authority Epiphanius, also vers. 38 and 49). In chap. xxiii. 2, after the words “perverting the nation,” Marcion added, “and destroying the law and the prophets;” and again, after “forbidding to give tribute unto Cæsar,” he added, “and perverting women and children.” He also erased ver. 43. In chap. xxiv. he omitted that part of the conference between our Saviour and the two disciples going to Emmaus, which related to the prediction of His sufferings, and which is contained in verses 26 and 27. These two verses he omitted, and changed the words at the end of ver. 25, ἐλάλησαν οἱ προφῆται, into ἐλάλησα ὑμῖν. Such are the alterations, according to Epiphanius, which Marcion made in his Gospel from St. Luke. Tertullian says (in the 4th chapter of the preceding Book) that Marcion erased the passage which gives an account of the parting of the raiment of our Saviour among the soldiers. But the reason he assigns for the erasure—‘*respiens Psalmi prophetiam*’—shows that in this, as well as in the few other instances which we have already named, where Tertullian

has charged Marcion with so altering passages, his memory deceived him into mistaking Matthew for Luke, for the reference to the passage in the Psalm is only given by St. [Matthew xxvii. 35.](#)

5. On an impartial review of these alterations, some seem to be but slight; others might be nothing but various readings; but others, again, are undoubtedly designed perversions. There were, however, passages enough left unaltered and unexpunged by the Marcionites, to establish the reality of the flesh and blood of Christ, and to prove that the God of the Jews was the Father of Christ, and of perfect goodness as well as justice. Tertullian, indeed, observes (chap. xliii.) that “Marcion purposely avoided erasing all the passages which made against him, that he might with the greater confidence deny having erased any at all, or at least that what he had omitted was for very good reasons.”

6. To show the unauthorized and unwarrantable character of these alterations, omissions, additions, and corruptions, the Catholic Christians asserted that their copies of St. Luke's Gospel were more ancient than Marcion's (so Tertullian in chap. iii. and iv. of this Book iv.); and they maintained also the genuineness and integrity of the unadulterated Gospel, in opposition to that which had been curtailed and altered by him (chap. v.).



Elucidations.

I.

(Deadly Sins, cap. ix., p. 356.)

To maintain a modern and wholly uncatholic system of Penitence, the schoolmen invented a technical scheme of sins *mortal* and sins *venial*, which must not be read into the Fathers, who had no such technicalities in mind. By “deadly sins” they meant all such as St. John recognizes (1 John v. 16–17) and none other; that is to say sins of surprise and infirmity, sins having in them no malice or wilful disobedience, such as an impatient word, or a momentary neglect of duty. Should a dying man commit a deliberate sin and then expire, even after a life of love and obedience, who could fail to recognize the fearful nature of such an end? But, should his last word be one of infirmity and weakness, censurable but not involving wilful disobedience, surely we may consider it as provided for by the comfortable words—“there is a sin not unto death.” Yet “all unrighteousness is sin,” and the Fathers held that all sin should be repented of and confessed before God; because all sin when it *is finished* bringeth forth death.”

In St. Augustine’s time, when moral theology became systematized in the West, by his mighty genius and influence, the following were recognized degrees of guilt: (1.) Sins deserving excommunication. (2.) Sins requiring to be confessed to the brother offended in order to God’s forgiveness, and (3.) sins covered by God’s gracious covenant, when daily confessed in the Lord’s Prayer, in public, or in private. And this classification was professedly based on Holy Scripture. Thus: (1.) on the text—“To deliver such an one unto Satan, etc.” (1 Cor. v. 4–5). (2.) On the text—(Matt. xviii. 15), “Confess your sins one to another, brethren” (James v. 16), and (3.) on the text—(Matt. vi. 12) “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us.” This last St. Augustine⁵¹⁹⁰ regards as the “daily medication” of our ordinary life, habitual penitence and faith and the baptismal covenant being presupposed.

The modern Trent theology has vastly amplified the scholastic teachings and refinements, and the elevation of Liguori to the rank of a church-doctor has virtually made the whole system *de fide* with the Latins. The Easterns know nothing of this modern and uncatholic teaching, and it is important that the student of the Ante-Nicene *Patrologia* should be on his guard against the novel meanings which the Trent theology imposes upon orthodox

5190 Opp. Tom. vi. p. 228. Ed. Migne.

(Nicene) language. The long ages during which Eastern orthodoxy has been obscured by the sufferings and consequent ignorance of the Greeks, have indeed tainted their doctrinal and practical system, but it still subsists in amazing contrast with Latin impurity. See, on the “indulgences,” of the latter, the “Orthodox Theology of Macarius, Bishop of Vinnitza,” Tom. II. p. 541, Paris, 1860.



II.

(Reservation of Baptism, cap. xi., note, p. 361.)

It is important, here, to observe the heretical origin of a sinful superstition which becomes conspicuous in the history of Constantine. If the church tolerated it in his case, it was doubtless in view of this extraordinary instance of one, who was a heathen still, at heart, becoming a guardian and protector of the persecuted Faithful. It is probable that he was regarded as a Cyrus or a Nebuchadnezzar whom God had raised up to protect and to deliver His people; who was to be honoured and obeyed as “God’s minister” (*Rom. xiii. 4.*) in so far, and for this purpose. The church was scrupulous and he was superstitious; it would have been difficult to discipline him and worse not to discipline him. Tacitly, therefore, he was treated as a *catechumen*, but was not formally admitted even to that class. He permitted Heathenism, and while he did so, how could he be received as a Christian? The Christian church never became responsible for his life and character, but strove to reform him and to prepare him for a true confession of Christ at some “convenient season.” In this, there seems to have been a great fault somewhere, chargeable perhaps to Eusebius or to some other Christian counsellor; but, when could any one say—“the emperor is sincere and humble and penitent and ought now to be received into the church.” It was a *political* conversion, and as such was accepted, and Constantine was a heathen till near his death. As to his final penitence and acceptance—“Forbear to judge.” *2 Kings x. 29–31.* Concerning his baptism, see Eusebius, *de Vita Const.* iv. 61, see also, Mosheim’s elaborate and candid views of the whole subject: *First Three Centuries*, Vol. II. 460–471.

III.

(Peter, cap. xiii. p. 365.)

The great Gallican, Launoy, doctor of the Sorbonne, has proved that the Fathers understand the Rock to be Christ, while, only rarely, and that *rhetorically*, not dogmatically, St. Peter is called a stone or a rock; a usage to which neither Luther nor Calvin could object. Tertullian himself, when he speaks dogmatically, is in accord with other Fathers, and gives no countenance to the modern doctrine of Rome. See *La Papauté*, of the Abbé Guettée, pp. 42–61. It is important, also, to note that the primacy of St. Peter, more or less, whatever it

may have been in the mind of the Fathers, was wholly *personal*, in their view. Of the fables which make it hereditary and a purtenance of Rome they knew nothing.

IV.

(Loans, cap. xvii. p. 372.)

The whole subject of *usury*, in what it consists, *etc.*, deserves to receive more attention than it does in our times, when *nominal* Christians are *steeped* in the sin of money-traffic to the injury of neighbours, on a scale truly gigantic. God's word clearly rebukes this sin. So does the Council of Nice.⁵¹⁹¹ Now by what is the sin defined? Certainly by the *spirit* of the Gospel; but, is it also, by the letter? A sophistical casuistry which maintains the letter, and then sophisticates and refines so as to explain it all away, is the product of school divinity and of modern Jesuitry; but even the great Bossuet is its apologist. (See his *Traité de l'Usure*. opp. ix. p. 49, etc., ed. Paris, 1846.) But for an exhaustive review of the whole matter, I ask attention to Huet, *Le Règne Social*, etc. (Paris, 1853) pp. 334–345.

V.

(The Baptist, cap. xviii. p. 375.)

The interpretation of Tertullian, however, has the all-important merit (which Bacon and Hooker recognize as cardinal) of flowing from the Scripture without squeezing. (1.) Our Lord sent the message to John as a personal and tender assurance to *him*. (2.) The story illustrates the *decrease* of which the Baptist had spoken prophetically ([John iii. 30.](#)); and (3.) it sustains the great principle that Christ alone is without sin, this being the one fault recorded of the Baptist, otherwise a singular instance of sinlessness. The B. Virgin's fault (gently re-proved by the Lord, [John ii. 4.](#)), seems in like manner introduced on this principle of exhibiting the only sinless One, in His Divine perfections as without spot. So even Joseph and Moses ([Psalm cvi. 33.](#), and [Gen. xlvii. 20.](#)) are shewn "to be but men." The policy of Joseph has indeed been extravagantly censured.

VI.

(Harshness, cap. xix., note 6., p. 378. Also, cap. xxvi. p. 393.)

Tertullian seems with reflect the early view of the church as to our Lord's total abnegation of all filial relations with the Virgin, when He gave to her St. John, instead of Himself, on the Cross. For this purpose He had made him the beloved disciple and doubtless charged

5191 Calmet. Opp. i. 483 and Tom. x., p. 525.

him with all the duties with which he was to be clothed. Thus He fulfilled the figurative law of His priesthood, as given by Moses, (Deut. xxxiii. 9.) and crucified himself, from the beginning, according to his own Law (Luke xiv. 26–27.) which he identifies with the Cross, here and also in Matt. x. 37–38. These then are the steps of His own holy example, illustrating His own precept, for doubtless, as “the Son of man,” His filial love was superlative and made the sacrifice the sharper: (1.) He taught Joseph that He had no earthly father, when he said—“Wist ye not that I must be in *my Father’s house*,” (Luke iii. 49., Revised); but, having established this fact, he then became “subject” to both his parents, till His public ministry began. (2.) At this time, He seems to have admonished His mother, that He could not recognize her authority any longer, (John ii. 4.) having now entered upon His work as the Son of God. (3.) Accordingly, He refused, thenceforth, to know her save only as one of His redeemed, excepting her in nothing from this common work for all the Human Race, (Matt. xii. 48) in the passage which Tertullian so forcibly expounds. (4.) Finally, when St. Mary draws near to the cross, apparently to claim the final recognition of the previous understanding (John ii. 4.) to which the Lord had referred her at Cana—He fulfils His last duty to her in giving her a son instead of Himself, and thereafter (5) recognizes her no more; not even in His messages after the Resurrection, nor when He met her with other disciples. He rewards her, instead, with the infinite love He bears to all His saints, and with the brightest rewards which are bestowed upon Faith. In this consists her superlative excellence and her conspicuous glory among the Redeemed (Luke i. 47–48.) in Christ’s account.

VII.

(Children, cap. xxiii. p. 386.)

In this beautiful testimony of our author to the sanctity of marriage, and the blessedness of its fruits, I see his austere spirit reflecting the spirit of Christ so tenderly and so faithfully, in the love of children, that I am warmly drawn to him. I cannot give him up to Montanism at this period of his life and labours. Surely, he was as yet merely persuaded that the prophetic *charismata* were not extinct, and that they had been received by his Phrygian friends, although he may still have regarded them as *prophesying* subject to all the infirmities which St. Paul attributes even to persons elevated by spiritual gifts. (1 Cor. xiv.) Why not recognize him in all his merits, until his open and senile lapse is complete?



VIII.

(Hades, cap. xxxiv. p. 406.)

Here again our author shews his unsettled view as to *Sheol* or *Hades*, on which see Kaye, pp. 247–250. Here he distinguishes between the *Inferi* and Abraham’s bosom; but (in B. iii.

cap. 24.) he has already, more aptly, regarded the *Inferi*, or *Hades*, as the common receptacle of departed spirits, where a "great gulf" indeed, separates between the two classes.

A *caricature* may sometimes illustrate characteristic features more powerfully than a true portrait. The French call the highest gallery in theatres, *paradis*; and I have sometimes explained it by the fact that the modern drama originated in the monkish *Mysteries*, revived so profanely in our own day. To reconcile the poor to a bad place they gave it the name of *Paradise*, thus illustrating their Mediæval conceptions; for trickling down from Tertullian his vivid notions seem to have suffused all Western theology on this subject. Thus, then, one vast receptacle receives all the dead. The *pit*, as we very appropriately call it in English, answers to the place of lost spirits, where the rich man was in torments. Above, are ranged the family of Abraham reclining, as it were, in their father's bosom, by turns. Far above, under skylights, (for the old *Mysteries* were celebrated in the day-time) is *the Paradise*, where the Martyrs see God, and are represented as "under the altar" of heaven itself. Now, abandoning our grotesque illustration, but using it for its *topography*, let us conceive of our own globe, as having a world-wide concavity such as they imagined, from literalizing the *under-world* of Sheol. In its depths is the *Phylace* (1 Peter iii. 19.) of "spirits in prison." In a higher region repose the blessed spirits in "Abraham's bosom." Yet nearer to the ethereal vaults, are the martyrs in Paradise, looking out into heavenly worlds. The immensity of the scale does not interfere with the vision of spirits, nor with such communications as Abraham holds with his lost son in the history of Dives and Lazarus. Here indeed Science comes to our aid, for if the *telephone* permits such conversations while we are in the flesh, we may at least imagine that the subtle spirit can act in like manner, apart from such contrivances. Now, so far as Tertullian is consistent with himself, I think these explanations may clarify his words and references. The Eastern Theology is less inconsistent and bears the marks alike of Plato and of Origen. But of this hereafter. Of a *place*, such as the Mediæval *Purgatory*, affirmed as *de fide* by the Trent creed, the Fathers knew nothing at all. See Vol. II. p. 490, also 522, this Series.

Additional Note.

(Passage not easy to identify, p. 390, note 14.)

Easy enough, by the LXX. See [Isaiah lxiii. 3.](#) καὶ τῶν ἐθνῶν οὐκ ἔστιν ἀνὴρ μετ' ἐμοῦ. The first verse, referring to Edom, leads our author to accentuate this point of Gentile ignorance.

Book V.



Wherein Tertullian proves, with respect to St. Paul's epistles, what he had proved in the preceding book with respect to St. Luke's gospel. Far from being at variance, they were in perfect unison with the writings of the Old Testament, and therefore testified that the Creator was the only God, and that the Lord Jesus was his Christ. As in the preceding books, Tertullian supports his argument with profound reasoning, and many happy illustrations of Holy Scripture.

Chapter I.—Introductory. The Apostle Paul Himself Not the Preacher of a New God. Called by Jesus Christ, Although After the Other Apostles, His Mission Was from the Creator. States How. The Argument, as in the Case of the Gospel, Confining Proofs to Such Portions of St. Paul's Writings as Marcion Allowed.

There is nothing without a beginning but God alone. Now, inasmuch as the beginning occupies the first place in the condition of all things, so it must necessarily take precedence in the treatment of them, if a clear knowledge is to be arrived at concerning their condition; for you could not find the means of examining even the quality of anything, unless you were certain of its existence, and that after discovering its origin.⁵¹⁹² Since therefore I am brought, in the course of my little work, to this point,⁵¹⁹³ I require to know of Marcion the origin of his apostle⁵¹⁹⁴ even—I, who am to some degree a new disciple,⁵¹⁹⁵ the follower of no other

5192 Cum cognoveris unde sit.

5193 Materiam.

5194 We have already more than once referred to Marcion's preference for *St. Paul*. "The reason of the preference thus given to that apostle was his constant and strenuous opposition to the Judaizing Christians, who wished to reimpose the yoke of the Jewish ceremonies on the necks of their brethren. This opposition the Marcionites wished to construe into a direct denial of the authority of the Mosaic law. They contended also from St. Paul's assertion, that he received his appointment to the apostolic office not from man, but from Christ, that he alone delivered the genuine doctrines of the gospel. This deference for St. Paul accounts also for Marcion's accepting *St. Luke's* Gospel as the only authentic one, as we saw in the last book of this treatise; it was because that evangelist had been the companion of St. Paul" (Bp. Kaye, *On the Writings of Tertullian*, 3d edition, pp. 474–475).

5195 Novus aliqui discipulus.

master; who at the same time⁵¹⁹⁶ can believe nothing, except that nothing ought to be believed hastily⁵¹⁹⁷ (and *that* I may further say is hastily believed, which is believed without any examination⁵¹⁹⁸ of its beginning); in short, I who have the best reason possible for bringing this inquiry to a most careful solution,⁵¹⁹⁹ since a man is affirmed to me to be an apostle whom I do not find mentioned in the Gospel in the catalogue⁵²⁰⁰ of the apostles. Indeed, when I hear that this man was chosen by the Lord after He had attained His rest in heaven, I feel that a kind of improvidence is imputable to Christ, for not knowing before that this man was necessary to Him; and because He thought that he must be added to the apostolic body in the way of a fortuitous encounter⁵²⁰¹ rather than a deliberate selection; by necessity (so to speak), and not voluntary choice, although the members of the apostolate had been duly ordained, and were now dismissed to their several missions. Wherefore, O shipmaster of Pontus,⁵²⁰² if you have never taken on board your small craft⁵²⁰³ any contraband goods or smuggler's cargo, if you have never thrown overboard or tampered with a freight, you are still more careful and conscientious, I doubt not, in divine things; and so I should be glad if you would inform us under what bill of lading⁵²⁰⁴ you admitted the Apostle Paul on board, who ticketed him,⁵²⁰⁵ what owner forwarded him,⁵²⁰⁶ who handed him to you,⁵²⁰⁷ that so you may land him without any misgiving,⁵²⁰⁸ lest he should turn out to belong to him,⁵²⁰⁹ who can substantiate his claim to him by producing all his apostolic writings.⁵²¹⁰ He professes himself to be "an apostle"—to use his own words—"not of men,



5196 Interim.

5197 Temere.

5198 Agnitione.

5199 Ad sollicitudinem.

5200 In albo.

5201 Ex incurso: in allusion to St. Paul's sudden conversion, [Acts ix. 3–8](#). [On St. Paul's Epistles, see p. 324, *supra*.]

5202 Marcion is frequently called "*Ponticus Nauclerus*," probably less on account of his own connection with a seafaring life, than that of his countrymen, who were great sailors. Comp. book. i. 18. (*sub fin.*) and book iii. 6. [pp. 284, 325.]

5203 In acatos tuas.

5204 Quo symbolo.

5205 Quis illum tituli caractere percusserit.

5206 Quis transmiserit tibi.

5207 Quis imposuerit.

5208 Constanter.

5209 Ne *illius* probetur, i.e., to the *Catholic*, for Marcion did not admit all St. Paul's epistles (Semler).

5210 Omnia apostolatus ejus instrumenta.

nor by man, but by Jesus Christ.”⁵²¹¹ Of course, any one may make a profession concerning himself; but his profession is only rendered valid by the authority of a second person. One man signs, another countersigns;⁵²¹² one man appends his seal, another registers in the public records.⁵²¹³ No one is at once a proposer and a seconder to himself. Besides, you have read, no doubt, that “many shall come, saying, I am Christ.”⁵²¹⁴ Now if any one can pretend that he is Christ, how much more might a man profess to be an apostle of Christ! But still, for my own part, I appear⁵²¹⁵ in the character of a disciple and an inquirer; that so I may even thus⁵²¹⁶ both refute your belief, who have nothing to support it, and confound your shamelessness, who make claims without possessing the means of establishing them. Let there be a Christ, let there be an apostle, although of another god; *but what matter?* since they are only to draw their proofs out of the Testament of the Creator. Because even the book of Genesis so long ago promised me *the Apostle Paul*. For among the types and prophetic blessings which he pronounced over his sons, Jacob, when he turned his attention to Benjamin, exclaimed, “Benjamin shall ravin as a wolf; in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall impart nourishment.”⁵²¹⁷ He foresaw that Paul would arise out of the tribe of Benjamin, a voracious wolf, devouring his prey in the morning; in order words, in the early period of his life he would devastate the Lord’s sheep, as a persecutor of the churches; but in the evening he would give them nourishment, which means that in his declining years he would educate the fold of Christ, as the teacher of the Gentiles. Then, again, in Saul’s conduct towards David, exhibited first in violent persecution of him, and then in remorse and reparation,⁵²¹⁸ on his receiving from him good for evil, we have nothing else than an anticipation⁵²¹⁹ of Paul in Saul—belonging, too, as they did, to the same tribe—and of Jesus in David, from whom He descended according to the Virgin’s genealogy.⁵²²⁰ Should you, however, disapprove of these types,⁵²²¹ the Acts of the Apostles,⁵²²² at all events, have handed down to me this career of Paul, which you must not

5211 [Gal. i. 1.](#)

5212 *Subscribit.*

5213 *Actis refert.*

5214 [Luke xxi. 8.](#)

5215 *Conversor.*

5216 *Jam hinc.*

5217 [Gen. xlix. 27,](#) Septuagint, the latter clause being καὶ εἰς τὸ ἑσπέρας δίδωσι τροφήν.

5218 *Satisfactio.*

5219 *Non aliud portendebat quam.*

5220 *Secundum Virginis censum.*

5221 *Figurarum sacramenta.*

5222 Although *St. Luke* wrote the Acts of the Apostles, Marcion does not seem to have admitted this book into his New Testament. “It is clearly excluded from his catalogue, as given by Epiphanius. The same thing appears

refuse to accept. Thence I demonstrate that from a persecutor he became “an apostle, not of men, neither by man;”⁵²²³ thence am I led to believe *the Apostle* himself; thence do I find reason for rejecting your defence of him,⁵²²⁴ and for bearing fearlessly your taunt. “Then you deny the Apostle Paul.” I do not calumniate him whom I defend.⁵²²⁵ I deny him, to compel you to the proof of him. I deny him, to convince you that he is mine. If you have regard to our belief you should admit the particulars which comprise it. If you challenge us to your belief, (pray) tell us what things constitute its basis.⁵²²⁶ Either prove the truth of what you believe, or failing in your proof, (tell us) how you believe. Else what conduct is yours,⁵²²⁷ believing in opposition to Him from whom alone comes the proof of that which you believe? Take now from my point of view⁵²²⁸ the apostle, in the same manner as you have received the Christ—the apostle shown to be as much *mine* as the Christ is. And here, too, we will fight within the same lines, and challenge our adversary on the mere ground of a simple rule,⁵²²⁹ that even an apostle who is said not to belong to the Creator—nay, is displayed as in actual hostility to the Creator—can be fairly regarded as teaching⁵²³⁰ nothing, knowing nothing, wishing nothing in favour of the Creator whilst it would be a first principle with him to set forth⁵²³¹ another god with as much eagerness as he would use in withdrawing us from the law of the Creator. It is not at all likely that he would call men away from Judaism without showing them at the same time what was the god in whom he invited them to believe; because nobody could possibly pass from allegiance to the Creator without knowing to whom he had to cross over. For either Christ had already revealed another god—in which case the apostle’s testimony would also follow to the same effect, for fear of his not being



from the more ancient authority of Tertullian, who begins his Book v. against Marcion with showing the absurdity of his conduct in rejecting the history and acts of the apostles, and yet receiving St. Paul as the chief of the apostles, whose name is never mentioned in the Gospel with the other apostles, especially since the account given by Paul himself in *Gal. i.–ii.* confirms the account which we have in the Acts. But the reason why he rejected this book is (as Tertullian says) very evident, since from it we can plainly show that the God of the Christians and the God of the Jews, or the Creator, was the same being and that Christ was sent by Him, and by no other” (Lardner’s Works, *Hist. of Heretics*, chap. x. sec. 41).

5223 *Gal. i. 1.*

5224 *Inde te a defensione ejus expello.*

5225 An insinuation that Marcion’s defence of Paul was, in fact, a calumny of the apostle.

5226 *Præstruant eam.*

5227 *Qualis es.*

5228 *Habe nunc de meo.*

5229 *In ipso gradu præscriptionis.*

5230 *Oportere docere...sapere...velle.*

5231 *Edicere.*

else regarded⁵²³² as an apostle of the god whom Christ had revealed, and because of the impropriety of his being concealed by the apostle who had been already revealed by Christ—or Christ had made no such revelation concerning God; *then* there was all the greater need why the apostle should reveal a God who could now be made known by no one else, and who would undoubtedly be left without any belief at all, if he were revealed not even by an apostle. We have laid down this as our first principle, because we wish at once to profess that we shall pursue the same method here in the apostle's case as we adopted before in Christ's case, to prove that he proclaimed no new god;⁵²³³ that is, we shall draw our evidence from the epistles of *St. Paul* himself. Now, the garbled form in which we have found the heretic's Gospel will have already prepared us to expect to find⁵²³⁴ the epistles also mutilated by him with like perverseness—and that even as respects their number.⁵²³⁵

5232 Ne non haberetur.

5233 Nullum alium deum circumlatum.

5234 Præjudicasse debebit.

5235 Marcion only received *ten* of *St. Paul's* epistles, and these altered by himself.

Chapter II.—On the Epistle to the Galatians. The Abolition of the Ordinances of the Mosaic Law No Proof of Another God. The Divine Lawgiver, the Creator Himself, Was the Abrogator. The Apostle's Doctrine in the First Chapter Shown to Accord with the Teaching of the Old Testament. The Acts of the Apostles Shown to Be Genuine Against Marcion. This Book Agrees with the Pauline Epistles.

The epistle which we also allow to be the most decisive⁵²³⁶ against Judaism, is that wherein the apostle instructs the Galatians. For the abolition of the ancient law we fully admit, and hold that it actually proceeds from the dispensation of the Creator,—a point which we have already often treated in the course of our discussion, when we showed that the innovation was foretold by the prophets of our God.⁵²³⁷ Now, if the Creator indeed promised that “the ancient things should pass away,”⁵²³⁸ to be superseded by a new course of things which should arise, whilst Christ marks the period of the separation when He says, “The law and the prophets were until John”⁵²³⁹—thus making the Baptist the limit between the two dispensations of the old things then terminating—and the new things then beginning, the apostle cannot of course do otherwise, (coming as he does) in Christ, who was revealed after John, than invalidate “the old things” and confirm “the new,” and yet promote thereby the faith of no other god than the Creator, at whose instance⁵²⁴⁰ it was foretold that the ancient things should pass away. Therefore both the abrogation of the law and the establishment of the gospel help my argument even in this epistle, wherein they both have reference to the fond assumption of the Galatians, which led them to suppose that faith in Christ (the Creator's Christ, of course) was obligatory, but without annulling the law, because it still appeared to them a thing incredible that the law should be set aside by its own author. Again,⁵²⁴¹ if they had at all heard of any other god from the apostle, would they not have concluded at once, of themselves, that they must give up the law of that God whom they had left, in order to follow another? For what man would be long in learning, that he ought to pursue a new discipline, after he had taken up with a new god? Since, however,⁵²⁴² the same God was declared in the gospel which had always been so well known in the law, the only change being in the dispensation,⁵²⁴³ the sole point of the question to be discussed

5236 Principalem.

5237 See above, in book i. chap. xx., also in book iv. chap. i.

5238 Comp. *Isa. xliii. 18, 19, and lxxv. 17, with 2 Cor. v. 17.*

5239 *Luke xvi. 16.*

5240 Apud quem.

5241 Porro.

5242 Immo quia.

5243 Disciplina.

was, whether the law of the Creator ought by the gospel to be excluded in the Christ of the Creator? Take away this point, and the controversy falls to the ground. Now, since they would all know of themselves,⁵²⁴⁴ on the withdrawal of this point, that they must of course renounce all submission to the Creator by reason of their faith in another god, there could have been no call for the apostle to teach them so earnestly that which their own belief must have spontaneously suggested to them. Therefore the entire purport of this epistle is simply to show us that the supersession⁵²⁴⁵ of the law comes from the appointment of the Creator—a point, which we shall still have to keep in mind.⁵²⁴⁶ Since also he makes mention of no other god (and he could have found no other opportunity of doing so, more suitable than when his purpose was to set forth the reason for the abolition of the law—especially as the prescription of a new god would have afforded a singularly good and most sufficient reason), it is clear enough in what sense he writes, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him who hath called you to His grace to *another* gospel”⁵²⁴⁷—He means) “another” as to the conduct it prescribes, not in respect of its worship; “another” as to the discipline it teaches, not in respect of its divinity; because it is the office of⁵²⁴⁸ Christ’s gospel to call men from the law to grace, not from the Creator to another god. For nobody had induced them to apostatize from⁵²⁴⁹ the Creator, that they should seem to “be removed to another gospel,” simply when they return again to the Creator. When he adds, too, the words, “which is not another,”⁵²⁵⁰ he confirms the fact that the gospel which he maintains is the Creator’s. For the Creator Himself promises the gospel, when He says by Isaiah: “Get thee up into the high mountain, thou that bringest to Sion good tidings; lift up thy voice with strength, thou that bringest the gospel to Jerusalem.”⁵²⁵¹ Also when, with respect to the apostles personally, He says, “How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, that bring good tidings of good”⁵²⁵²—even proclaiming the gospel to the Gentiles, because He also says, “In His name shall the Gentiles trust;”⁵²⁵³ that is, in the name of Christ, to whom He says, “I

5244 Ultro.

5245 Discessionem.

5246 Ut adhuc suggeremus.

5247 Gal. i. 6, 7.

5248 Deberet.

5249 Moverat illos a.

5250 Gal. i. 7.

5251 Isa. xl. 9 (Septuagint).

5252 Isa. lii. 7.

5253 We have here an instance of the high authority of the Septuagint version. It comes from the Seventy: Καὶ ἐπὶ τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ ἔθνη ἔλπιουσιν (Isa. xlii. 4.) From this Tertullian, as usual, quoted it. But what is much more important, St. Matthew has adopted it; see chap. xii, ver. 21. This beautiful promise of the Creator does not occur in its well-known form in the Hebrew original.

have given thee as a light of the Gentiles.”⁵²⁵⁴ However, you will have it that it is the gospel of a new god which was then set forth by the apostle. So that there are two gospels for⁵²⁵⁵ two gods; and the apostle made a great mistake when he said that “there is not another” gospel,⁵²⁵⁶ since there is (on the hypothesis)⁵²⁵⁷ another; and so he might have made a better defence of his gospel, by rather demonstrating this, than by insisting on its being but one. But perhaps, to avoid this difficulty, you will say that he therefore added just afterwards, “Though an angel from heaven preach any other gospel, let him be accursed,”⁵²⁵⁸ because he was aware that the Creator was going to introduce a gospel! But you thus entangle yourself still more. For this is now the mesh in which you are caught. To affirm that there are two gospels, is not the part of a man who has already denied that there is another. His meaning, however, is clear, for he has mentioned himself first (in the anathema): “But though *we* or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel.”⁵²⁵⁹ It is by way of an example that he has expressed himself. If even he himself might not preach any other gospel, then neither might an angel. He said “angel” in this way, that he might show how much more men ought not to be believed, when neither an angel nor an apostle ought to be; not that he meant to apply⁵²⁶⁰ an angel to the gospel of the Creator. He then cursorily touches on his own conversion from a persecutor to an apostle—confirming thereby the Acts of the Apostles,⁵²⁶¹ in which book may be found the very subject⁵²⁶² of this epistle, how that certain persons interposed, and said that men ought to be circumcised, and that the law of Moses was to be observed; and how the apostles, when consulted, determined, by the authority of the Holy Ghost, that “a yoke should not be put upon men’s necks which their fathers even had not been able to bear.”⁵²⁶³ Now, since the Acts of the Apostles thus agree with Paul, it becomes apparent why you reject them. It is because they declare no other God than the Creator, and prove Christ to belong to no other God than the Creator; whilst the promise of the Holy Ghost is shown to have been fulfilled in no other document than the Acts of the Apostles. Now, it is not very likely that these⁵²⁶⁴ should be found in agreement with the apostle, on

5254 [Isa. xlii. 6.](#)

5255 Apud: “administered by.”

5256 [Gal. i. 7.](#)

5257 Cum sit.

5258 [Gal. i. 8.](#)

5259 [Gal. i. 8.](#)

5260 Referret.

5261 A similar remark occurs in *Præscript. Hæretic.* c. xxiii. p. 253.

5262 Ipsa materia.

5263 See [Gal. i. 11–24](#), compared with [Acts xv. 5–29](#).

5264 “The Acts of the Apostles” is always a *plural* phrase in Tertullian.

the one hand, when they described his career in accordance with his own statement; but should, on the other hand, be at variance with him when they announce the (attribute of) divinity in the Creator's Christ—as if Paul did not follow⁵²⁶⁵ the preaching of the apostles when he received from them the prescription⁵²⁶⁶ of not teaching the Law.⁵²⁶⁷



5265 Ut non secutus sit.

5266 Formam.

5267 Dedocendæ legis; i.e., of Moses.

Chapter III.—St. Paul Quite in Accordance with St. Peter and Other Apostles of the Circumcision. His Censure of St. Peter Explained, and Rescued from Marcion's Misapplication. The Strong Protests of This Epistle Against Judaizers. Yet Its Teaching is Shown to Be in Keeping with the Law and the Prophets. Marcion's Tampering with St. Paul's Writings Censured.

But with regard to the countenance⁵²⁶⁸ of Peter and the rest of the apostles, he tells us⁵²⁶⁹ that “fourteen years after he went up to Jerusalem,” in order to confer with them⁵²⁷⁰ about the rule which he followed in his gospel, lest perchance he should all those years have been running, and be running still, in vain, (which would be the case,) of course, if his preaching of the gospel fell short of their method.⁵²⁷¹ So great had been his desire to be approved and supported by those whom you wish on all occasions⁵²⁷² to be understood as in alliance with Judaism! When indeed he says, that “neither was Titus circumcised,”⁵²⁷³ he for the first time shows us that circumcision was the only question connected with the maintenance⁵²⁷⁴ of the law, which had been as yet agitated by those whom he therefore calls “false brethren unawares brought in.”⁵²⁷⁵ These persons went no further than to insist on a continuance of the law, retaining unquestionably a sincere belief in the Creator. They perverted the gospel in their teaching, not indeed by such a tampering with the Scripture⁵²⁷⁶ as should enable them to expunge⁵²⁷⁷ the Creator's Christ, but by so retaining the ancient *régime* as not to exclude the Creator's law. Therefore he says: “Because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ, that they might bring us into bondage, to whom we gave place by subjection not even for an hour.”⁵²⁷⁸ Let us only attend to the clear⁵²⁷⁹ sense and to the reason of the thing, and the perversion of the Scripture will be apparent. When he first says, “Neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was *compelled* to be circumcised,” and then adds, “And *that*

5268 Ad patrociniū.

5269 *Scribit* often takes the place of *inquit*; naturally enough as referring to the epistles.

5270 Gal. ii. 1, 2.

5271 Formam.

5272 Si quando.

5273 Gal. ii. 3.

5274 Ex defensione.

5275 Gal. ii. 4.

5276 Interpolatione Scripturæ.

5277 Qua effingerent.

5278 Gal. ii. 4, 5.

5279 Ipsi.

because of false brethren unawares brought in,"⁵²⁸⁰ etc., he gives us an insight into his reason⁵²⁸¹ for acting in a clean contrary way,⁵²⁸² showing us wherefore he did that which he would neither have done nor shown to us, if that had not happened which induced him to act as he did. But then⁵²⁸³ I want you to tell us whether they would have yielded to the subjection that was demanded,⁵²⁸⁴ if these false brethren had not crept in to spy out their liberty? I apprehend not. They therefore gave way (in a partial concession), because there were persons whose weak faith required consideration.⁵²⁸⁵ For their rudimentary belief, which was still in suspense about the observance of the law, deserved this concessive treatment,⁵²⁸⁶ when even the apostle himself had some suspicion that he might have run, and be still running, in vain.⁵²⁸⁷ Accordingly, the false brethren who were the spies of their Christian liberty must be thwarted in their efforts to bring it under the yoke of their own Judaism before that Paul discovered whether his labour had been in vain, before that those who preceded him in the apostolate gave him their right hands of fellowship, before that he entered on the office of preaching to the Gentiles, according to their arrangement with him.⁵²⁸⁸ He therefore made some concession, as was necessary, for a time; and this was the reason why he had Timothy circumcised,⁵²⁸⁹ and the Nazarites introduced into the

5280 Gal. ii. 3, 4.

5281 Incipit reddere rationem.

5282 Contrarii utique facti. [Farrar, *St. Paul*, pp. 232 and 261.]

5283 Denique.

5284 See Conybeare and Howson, *in loc.*

5285 Fuerunt propter quos crederetur.

5286 The following statement will throw light upon the character of *the two classes* of Jewish professors of Christianity referred to by Tertullian: "A pharisaic section was sheltered in its bosom (of the church at Jerusalem), which continually strove to turn Christianity into a sect of Judaism. These men were restless agitators, animated by the bitterest sectarian spirit; and although they were numerically a small party, yet we know the power of the turbulent minority. But besides these Judaizing zealots, there was a large proportion of the Christians at Jerusalem, whose Christianity, though more sincere than that of those just mentioned, was yet very weak and imperfect...Many of them still only knew of a Christ after the flesh—a Saviour of Israel—a Jewish Messiah. Their minds were in a state of transition between the law and the gospel; and it was of great consequence not to shock their prejudices too rudely; lest they should be tempted to make shipwreck of their faith and renounce their Christianity altogether." These were they whose prejudices required to be wisely consulted in things which did not touch the foundation of the gospel. (Conybeare and Howson's *St. Paul*, People's Edition, vol. ii. pp. 259, 260.)

5287 Gal. ii. 2.

5288 Ex censu eorum: see Gal. ii. 9, 10.

5289 Acts xvi. 3.

temple,⁵²⁹⁰ which incidents are described in the Acts. Their truth may be inferred from their agreement with the apostle's own profession, how "to the Jews he became as a Jew, that he might gain the Jews, and to them that were under the law, as under the law,"—and so here with respect to those who come in secretly,—“and lastly, how he became all things to all men, that he might gain all.”⁵²⁹¹ Now, inasmuch as the circumstances require such an interpretation as this, no one will refuse to admit that Paul preached that God and that Christ whose law he was excluding all the while, however much he allowed it, owing to the times, but which he would have had summarily to abolish if he had published a new god. Rightly, then, did Peter and James and John give their right hand of fellowship to Paul, and agree on such a division of their work, as that Paul should go to the heathen, and themselves to the circumcision.⁵²⁹² Their agreement, also, “to remember the poor”⁵²⁹³ was in complete conformity with the law of the Creator, which cherished the poor and needy, as has been shown in our observations on your Gospel.⁵²⁹⁴ It is thus certain that the question was one which simply regarded the law, while at the same time it is apparent what portion of the law it was convenient to have observed. Paul, however, censures Peter for not walking straightforwardly according to the truth of the gospel. No doubt he blames him; but it was solely because of his inconsistency in the matter of “eating,”⁵²⁹⁵ which he varied according to the sort of persons (whom he associated with) “fearing them which were of the circumcision,”⁵²⁹⁶ but not on account of any perverse opinion touching another god. For if such a question had arisen, others also would have been “resisted face to face” by the man who had not even spared Peter on the comparatively small matter of his doubtful conversation. But what do the Marcionites wish to have believed (on the point)? For the rest, the apostle must (be permitted to) go on with his own statement, wherein he says that “a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith:”⁵²⁹⁷ faith, however, in the same God to whom belongs the law also. For of course he would have bestowed no labour on severing faith from the law, when the difference of the god would, if there had only been any, have of itself produced such a severance. Justly, therefore, did he refuse to “build up again (the structure of the law) which he had overthrown.”⁵²⁹⁸ The law, indeed, had to be overthrown, from the moment

5290 Acts xxi. 23–26.

5291 1 Cor. ix. 20, 22.

5292 Gal. ii. 9.

5293 Gal. ii. 10.

5294 See above, book iv. chap. xiv. p. 365.

5295 Victus: see Gal. ii. 12; or, *living*, see ver. 14.

5296 Gal. ii. 12.

5297 Gal. ii. 16.

5298 Gal. ii. 18 (see Conybeare and Howson).

when John “cried in the wilderness, Prepare ye the ways of the Lord,” that valleys⁵²⁹⁹ and hills and mountains may be filled up and levelled, and the crooked and the rough ways be made straight and smooth⁵³⁰⁰—in other words, that the difficulties of the law might be changed into the facilities of the gospel.

For he remembered that the time was come of which the Psalm spake, “Let us break their bands asunder, and cast off their yoke from us;”⁵³⁰¹ since the time when “the nations became tumultuous, and the people imagined vain counsels;” when “the kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against His Christ,”⁵³⁰² in order that thenceforward man might be justified by the liberty of faith, not by servitude to the law,⁵³⁰³ “because the just shall live by his faith.”⁵³⁰⁴ Now, although the prophet Habakkuk first said this, yet you have the apostle here confirming the prophets, even as Christ did. The object, therefore, of the faith whereby the just man shall live, will be that same God to whom likewise belongs the law, by doing which no man is justified. Since, then, there equally are found the curse in the law and the blessing in faith, you have both conditions set forth by⁵³⁰⁵ the Creator: “Behold,” says He, “I have set before you a blessing and a curse.”⁵³⁰⁶ You cannot establish a diversity of authors because there happens to be one of things; for the diversity is itself proposed by one and the same author. Why, however, “Christ was made a curse for us,”⁵³⁰⁷ is declared by the apostle himself in a way which quite helps our side, as being the result of the Creator’s appointment. But yet it by no means follows, because the Creator said of old, “Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree,”⁵³⁰⁸ that Christ belonged to another god, and on that account was accursed even then in the law. And how, indeed, could the Creator have cursed by anticipation one whom He knew not of? Why, however, may it not be more suitable for the Creator to have delivered His own Son to His own curse, than to have submitted Him to the malediction of that god of yours,—in behalf, too, of man, who is an alien to him? Now, if this appointment of the Creator respecting His Son appears to you to be a cruel one, it is equally so in the case of

5299 Rivi: the *wadys* of the East.

5300 Luke iii. 4, 5.

5301 Ps. ii. 3.

5302 Ps. ii. 1, 2.

5303 Gal. ii. 16 and iii. 11.

5304 Hab. ii. 4.

5305 Apud.

5306 Deut. xi. 26.

5307 Gal. iii. 13.

5308 The LXX. *version* of Deut. xxi. 23 is quoted by St. Paul in Gal. iii. 13.

your own god; if, on the contrary, it be in accordance with reason in your god, it is equally so—nay, much more so—in mine. For it would be more credible that that God had provided blessing for man, through the curse of Christ, who formerly set both a blessing and a curse before man, than that he had done so, who, according to you,⁵³⁰⁹ never at any time pronounced either. “We have received therefore, the promise of the Spirit,” as the apostle says, “through faith,” even that faith by which the just man lives, in accordance with the Creator’s purpose.⁵³¹⁰ What I say, then, is this, that that God is the object of faith who prefigured the grace of faith. But when he also adds, “For ye are all the children of faith,”⁵³¹¹ it becomes clear that what the heretic’s industry erased was the mention of Abraham’s name; for by faith the apostle declares us to be “*children of Abraham*,”⁵³¹² and after mentioning him he expressly called us “children of faith” also. But how are we children of faith? and of whose faith, if not Abraham’s? For since “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness;”⁵³¹³ since, also, he deserved for that reason to be called “the father of many nations,” whilst we, who are even more like him⁵³¹⁴ in believing in God, are thereby justified as Abraham was, and thereby also obtain life—since the just lives by his faith,—it therefore happens that, as he in the previous passage called us “sons of Abraham,” since he is in faith our (common) father,⁵³¹⁵ so here also he named us “children of faith,” for it was owing to his faith that it was promised that Abraham should be the father of (many) nations. As to the fact itself of his calling off faith from circumcision, did he not seek thereby to constitute us the children of Abraham, who had believed previous to his circumcision in the flesh?⁵³¹⁶ In short,⁵³¹⁷ faith in one of two gods cannot possibly admit us to the dispensation⁵³¹⁸ of the other,⁵³¹⁹ so that it should impute righteousness to those who believe in him, and make the just live through him, and declare the Gentiles to be his children through faith. Such a dispensation as this belongs wholly to Him through whose appointment it was already made



5309 Apud te.

5310 According to the promise of a prophet of the Creator. See [Hab. ii. 4.](#)

5311 [Gal. iii. 26.](#)

5312 [Gal. iii. 7, 9, 29.](#)

5313 [Gal. iii. 6.](#)

5314 Magis proinde: as sharing in the faith he had, “being yet uncircumcised.” See [Rom. iv. 11.](#)

5315 Patris fidei.

5316 In integritate carnis.

5317 Denique.

5318 Formam: “plan” or “arrangement.”

5319 Alterius dei...dei alterius.

known by the call of this self-same Abraham, as is conclusively shown⁵³²⁰ by the natural meaning.⁵³²¹

5320 Revincatur.

5321 Ipso sensu.

Chapter IV.—Another Instance of Marcion's Tampering with St. Paul's Text. The Fulness of Time, Announced by the Apostle, Foretold by the Prophets. Mosaic Rites Abrogated by the Creator Himself. Marcion's Tricks About Abraham's Name. The Creator, by His Christ, the Fountain of the Grace and the Liberty Which St. Paul Announced. Marcion's Docetism Refuted.

“But,” says he, “I speak after the manner of men: when we were children, we were placed in bondage under the elements of the world.”⁵³²² This, however, was not said “after the manner of men.” For there is no figure⁵³²³ here, but literal truth. For (with respect to the latter clause of this passage), what child (in the sense, that is, in which the Gentiles are children) is not in bondage to the elements of the world, which he looks up to⁵³²⁴ in the light of a god? With regard, however, to the former clause, there *was* a figure (as the apostle wrote it); because after he had said, “I speak after the manner of men,” he adds, “Though it be but a man's covenant, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.”⁵³²⁵ For by the figure of the permanency of a human covenant he was defending the divine testament. “To Abraham were the promises made, and to his seed. He said not ‘to seeds,’ as of many; but as of one, ‘to thy seed,’ which is Christ.”⁵³²⁶ Fie on⁵³²⁷ Marcion's sponge! But indeed it is superfluous to dwell on what he has erased, when he may be more effectually confuted from that which he has retained.⁵³²⁸ “But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His

5322 This apparent quotation is in fact a patching together of two sentences from Gal. iii. 15 and iv. 3 (Fr. Junius). “If I may be allowed to guess from the manner in which Tertullian expresseth himself, I should imagine that Marcion erased the whole of chap. iii. after the word λέγω in ver. 15, and the beginning of chap. iv., until you come to the word ὅτε in ver. 3. Then the words will be connected thus: ‘Brethren, I speak after the manner of men...when we were children we were in bondage under the elements of the world; but when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son.’ This is precisely what the argument of Tertullian requires, and they are the very words which he connects together” (Lardner, *Hist. of Heretics*, x. 43). Dr. Lardner, touching Marcion's omissions in this chap. iii. of the Epistle to the Galatians, says: “He omitted vers. 6, 7, 8, in order to get rid of the mention of Abraham, and of the gospel having been preached to him.” This he said after St. Jerome, and then adds: “He ought also to have omitted part of ver. 9, σὺν τῷ πιστῷ Ἀβραάμ, which seems to have been the case, according to T.'s manner of stating the argument against him” (Works, *History of Heretics*, x. 43).

5323 Exemplum.

5324 Suspicit.

5325 Gal. iii. 15. This, of course, is consistent in St. Paul's argument. Marcion, however, by erasing all the intervening verses, and affixing the phrase “*after the manner of men*” to the plain assertion of Gal. iv. 3, reduces the whole statement to an absurdity.

5326 Gal. iii. 16.

5327 Erubescat.

5328 So, instead of pursuing the contents of chap. iii., he proceeds to such of chap. iv. as Marcion reserved.

Son”⁵³²⁹—the God, of course, who is the Lord of that very succession of times which constitutes *an age*; who also ordained, as “*signs*” of time, suns and moons and constellations and stars; who furthermore both predetermined and predicted that the revelation of His Son should be postponed to the end of the times.⁵³³⁰ “It shall come to pass *in the last days*, that the mountain (of the house) of the Lord shall be manifested”;⁵³³¹ “and *in the last days* I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh”⁵³³² as Joel says. It was characteristic of Him (only)⁵³³³ to wait patiently for the fulness of time, to whom belonged the end of time no less than the beginning. But as for that idle god, who has neither any work nor any prophecy, nor accordingly any time, to show for himself, what has *he* ever done to bring about the fulness of time, or to wait patiently its completion? If nothing, what an impotent state to have to wait for the Creator’s time, in servility to the Creator! But for what end did He send His Son? “To redeem them that were under the law,”⁵³³⁴ in other words, to “make the crooked ways straight, and the rough places smooth,” as Isaiah says⁵³³⁵—in order that old things might pass away, and a new course begin, even “the new law out of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem,”⁵³³⁶ and “that we might receive the adoption of sons,”⁵³³⁷ that is, the Gentiles, who once were not sons. For He is to be “the light of the Gentiles,” and “in His name shall the Gentiles trust.”⁵³³⁸ That we may have, therefore the assurance that we are the children of God, “He hath sent forth His Spirit into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”⁵³³⁹ For “in the last days,” saith He, “I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh.”⁵³⁴⁰

Now, from whom comes this grace, but from Him who proclaimed the promise thereof? Who is (our) Father, but He who is also our Maker? Therefore, after such affluence (of grace), they should not have returned “to weak and beggarly elements.”⁵³⁴¹ By the Romans, however, the rudiments of learning are wont to be called *elements*. He did not therefore seek, by any depreciation of the mundane elements, to turn them away from their god, al-

5329 Gal. iv. 4.

5330 In extremitatem temporum.

5331 Isa. ii. 2 (Sept).

5332 Joel iii. 28, as quoted by St. Peter, Acts ii. 17.

5333 Ipsius.

5334 Gal. iv. 5.

5335 Isa. xl. 4.

5336 Isa. ii. 3.

5337 Gal. iv. 5.

5338 Isa. xlii. 4, 6.

5339 Gal. iv. 6.

5340 Joel iii. 28, as given in Acts ii. 17.

5341 Gal. iv. 9.

though, when he said just before, "Howbeit, then, ye serve them which by nature are no gods,"⁵³⁴² he censured the error of that physical or natural superstition which holds the elements to be god; but at the God of those elements he aimed not in this censure.⁵³⁴³ He tells us himself clearly enough what he means by "*elements*," even the rudiments of the law: "Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years"⁵³⁴⁴—the sabbaths, I suppose, and "the preparations,"⁵³⁴⁵ and the fasts, and the "high days."⁵³⁴⁶ For the cessation of even these, no less than of circumcision, was appointed by the Creator's decrees, who had said by Isaiah, "Your new moons, and your sabbaths, and your high days I cannot bear; your fasting, and feasts, and ceremonies my soul hateth;"⁵³⁴⁷ also by Amos, "I hate, I despise your feast-days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies;"⁵³⁴⁸ and again by Hosea, "I will cause to cease all her mirth, and her feast-days, and her sabbaths, and her new moons, and all her solemn assemblies."⁵³⁴⁹ The institutions which He set up Himself, you ask, did He then destroy? Yes, rather than any other. Or if another destroyed them, he only helped on the purpose of the Creator, by removing what even He had condemned. But this is not the place to discuss the question why the Creator abolished His own laws. It is enough for us to have proved that He intended such an abolition, that so it may be affirmed that the apostle determined nothing to the prejudice of the Creator, since the abolition itself proceeds from the Creator. But as, in the case of thieves, something of the stolen goods is apt to drop by the way, as a clue to their detection; so, as it seems to me, it has happened to Marcion: the last mention of Abraham's name he has left untouched (in the epistle), although no passage required his erasure more than this, even his partial alteration of the text.⁵³⁵⁰ "For (it is written) that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bond maid, the other by a free woman; but he who was of the bond maid was born after the flesh, but he of the free woman was by promise: which things are allegorized"⁵³⁵¹ (that is to say, they presaged something besides

5342 Gal. iv. 8.

5343 Nec sic taxans.

5344 Gal. iv. 10.

5345 Coenas puras: probably the παρασκευαί mentioned in John xix. 31.

5346 See also John xix. 31.

5347 Isa. i. 13, 14.

5348 Amos v. 21.

5349 Hos. ii. 11.

5350 In other words, Marcion has indeed tampered with the passage, omitting some things; but (strange to say) he has left untouched the statement which, from his point of view, most required suppression.

5351 Allegorica: on the importance of rendering ἀλληγορούμενα by this participle rather than by the noun "an allegory," as in A.V., see Bp. Marsh's *Lectures on the Interpretation of the Bible*, pp. 351–354.

the literal history); “for these are the two covenants,” or the two exhibitions (of the divine plans),⁵³⁵² as we have found the word interpreted, “the one from the Mount Sinai,” in relation to the synagogue of the Jews, according to the law, “which gendereth to bondage”—“the other gendereth” (to liberty, being raised) above all principality, and power, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but in that which is to come, “which is the mother of us all,” in which we have the promise of (Christ’s) holy church; by reason of which he adds in conclusion: “So then, brethren, we are not children of the bond woman, but of the free.”⁵³⁵³ In this passage he has undoubtedly shown that Christianity had a noble birth, being sprung, as the mystery of the allegory indicates, from that son of Abraham who was born of the free woman; whereas from the son of the bond maid came the legal bondage of Judaism. Both dispensations, therefore, emanate from that same God by whom,⁵³⁵⁴ as we have found, they were both sketched out beforehand. When he speaks of “the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free,”⁵³⁵⁵ does not the very phrase indicate that He is the Liberator who was once the Master? For Galba himself never liberated slaves which were not his own, even when about to restore free men to their liberty.⁵³⁵⁶ By Him, therefore, will liberty be bestowed, at whose command lay the enslaving power of the law. And very properly. It was not meet that those who had received liberty should be “entangled again with the yoke of bondage”⁵³⁵⁷—that is, of the law; now that the Psalm had its prophecy accomplished: “Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us, since the rulers have gathered themselves together against the Lord and against His Christ.”⁵³⁵⁸ All those, therefore, who had been delivered from the yoke of slavery he would earnestly have to obliterate the very mark of slavery—even circumcision, on the authority of the prophet’s prediction. He remembered how that Jeremiah had said, “Circumcise the foreskins of your heart;”⁵³⁵⁹ as Moses likewise had enjoined, “Circumcise your hard hearts”⁵³⁶⁰—not the *literal* flesh. If, now, he were for excluding circumcision, as the messenger of a new god, why does he say that “in Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircum-

5352 Ostensiones: *revelationes* perhaps.

5353 Gal. iv. 21–26, 31.

5354 Apud quem.

5355 Gal. v. 1.

5356 Tertullian, in his terse style, takes the case of the emperor, as the highest potentate, who, if any, might make free with his power. He seizes the moment when Galba was saluted emperor on Nero’s death, and was the means of delivering so many out of the hands of the tyrant, in order to sharpen the point of his illustration.

5357 Gal. v. 1.

5358 Ps. ii. 3, 2.

5359 Jer. iv. 4.

5360 Deut. x. 16.

cision?”⁵³⁶¹ For it was his duty to prefer the rival principle of that which he was abolishing, if he had a mission from the god who was the enemy of circumcision.

Furthermore, since both circumcision and uncircumcision were attributed to the same Deity, both lost their power⁵³⁶² in Christ, by reason of the excellency of faith—of that faith concerning which it had been written, “And in His name shall the Gentiles trust?”⁵³⁶³—of that faith “which,” he says “worketh by love.”⁵³⁶⁴ By this saying he also shows that the Creator is the source of that grace. For whether he speaks of the love which is due to God, or that which is due to one’s neighbor—in either case, the Creator’s grace is meant: for it is He who enjoins the first in these words, “Thou shalt love God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength;”⁵³⁶⁵ and also the second in another passage: “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”⁵³⁶⁶ “But he that troubleth you shall have to bear judgment.”⁵³⁶⁷ From what God? From (Marcion’s) most excellent god? But he does not execute judgment. From the Creator? But neither will He condemn the maintainer of circumcision. Now, if none other but the Creator shall be found to execute judgment, it follows that only He, who has determined on the cessation of the law, shall be able to condemn the defenders of the law; and what, if he also affirms the law in that portion of it where it ought (to be permanent)? “For,” says he, “all the law is fulfilled in you by this: ‘Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.’”⁵³⁶⁸ If, indeed, he will have it that by the words “*it is fulfilled*” it is implied that the law no longer has *to be* fulfilled, then of course he does not mean that I should any more love my neighbour as myself, since this precept must have ceased together with the law. But no! we must evermore continue to observe this commandment. The Creator’s law, therefore, has received the approval of the rival god, who has, in fact, bestowed upon it not the sentence of a summary dismissal,⁵³⁶⁹ but the favour of a compendious acceptance;⁵³⁷⁰ the gist of it all being concentrated in this one precept! But this condensation of the law is, in fact, only possible to Him who is the Author of it. When, therefore, he says, “Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ,”⁵³⁷¹ since this cannot be



5361 Gal. v. 6.

5362 Utraque vacabat.

5363 Isa. xlii. 4.

5364 Gal. v. 6.

5365 Deut. vi. 5.

5366 Lev. xix. 18.

5367 Gal. v. 10.

5368 Gal. v. 14.

5369 Dispendium.

5370 Compendium: the terseness of the original cannot be preserved in the translation.

5371 Gal. vi. 2.

accomplished except a man love his neighbour as himself, it is evident that the precept, “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” (which, in fact, underlies the injunction, “Bear ye one another’s burdens”), is really “the law of Christ,” though literally the law of the Creator. Christ, therefore, is the Creator’s Christ, as Christ’s law is the Creator’s law. “Be not deceived,⁵³⁷² God is not mocked.”⁵³⁷³ But Marcion’s god *can* be mocked; for he knows not how to be angry, or how to take vengeance. “For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”⁵³⁷⁴ It is then the God of recompense and judgment who threatens⁵³⁷⁵ this. “Let us not be weary in well-doing;”⁵³⁷⁶ and “as we have opportunity, let us do good.”⁵³⁷⁷ Deny now that the Creator has given a commandment to do good, and then a diversity of precept may argue a difference of gods. If, however, He also announces recompense, then from the same God must come the harvest both of death⁵³⁷⁸ and of life. But “in due time we shall reap;”⁵³⁷⁹ because in Ecclesiastes it is said, “For everything there will be a time.”⁵³⁸⁰ Moreover, “the world is crucified unto me,” who am a servant of the Creator—“the world,” (I say,) but not the God who made the world—“and I unto the world,”⁵³⁸¹ not unto the God who made the world. *The world*, in the apostle’s sense, here means life and conversation according to worldly principles; it is in renouncing these that we and they are mutually crucified and mutually slain. He calls them “persecutors of Christ.”⁵³⁸² But when he adds, that “he bare in his body the scars⁵³⁸³ of Christ”—since scars, of course, are accidents of body⁵³⁸⁴—he therefore expressed the truth, that the flesh of Christ is not putative, but real and substantial,⁵³⁸⁵ the scars of which he represents as borne upon his body.

5372 Erratis: literally, “ye are deceived.”

5373 Gal. vi. 7.

5374 Gal. vi. 7.

5375 Intentat.

5376 Gal. vi. 9.

5377 Gal. vi. 10.

5378 Corruptionis.

5379 Gal. vi. 9.

5380 Eccles. iii. 17.

5381 Gal. vi. 14.

5382 See Gal. vi. 17, κόπους μοι μηδεὶς παρεχέτω, “let no one harass me.”

5383 Stigmata: the scars not of circumcision, but of wounds suffered for His sake (Conybeare and Howson).

5384 Corporalia.

5385 Solidam.

Chapter V.—The First Epistle to the Corinthians. The Pauline Salutation of Grace and Peace Shown to Be Anti-Marcionite. The Cross of Christ Purposed by the Creator. Marcion Only Perpetuates the Offence and Foolishness of Christ's Cross by His Impious Severance of the Gospel from the Creator. Analogies Between the Law and the Gospel in the Matter of Weak Things, and Foolish Things and Base Things.

My preliminary remarks⁵³⁸⁶ on the preceding epistle called me away from treating of its superscription,⁵³⁸⁷ for I was sure that another opportunity would occur for considering the matter, it being of constant recurrence, and in the same form too, in every epistle. The point, then, is, that it is not (the usual) *health* which the apostle prescribes for those to whom he writes, but “grace and peace.”⁵³⁸⁸ I do not ask, indeed, what a destroyer of Judaism has to do with a formula which the Jews still use. For to this day they salute each other⁵³⁸⁹ with the greeting of “peace,” and formerly in their Scriptures they did the same. But I understand him by his practice⁵³⁹⁰ plainly enough to have corroborated the declaration of the Creator: “How beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good, who preach the gospel of *peace*.”⁵³⁹¹ For the herald of *good*, that is, of God's “grace” was well aware that along with it “peace” also was to be proclaimed.⁵³⁹² Now, when he announces these blessings as “from God the Father and the Lord Jesus,”⁵³⁹³ he uses titles that are common to both, and which are also adapted to the mystery of our faith;⁵³⁹⁴ and I suppose it to be impossible accurately to determine what God is declared to be the Father and the Lord Jesus, unless (we consider) which of their accruing attributes are more suited to them severally.⁵³⁹⁵ First, then, I assert that none other than the Creator and Sustainer of both man and the universe can be acknowledged as Father *and* Lord; next, that to the Father also the title of Lord accrues by reason of His power, and that the Son too receives the same through the Father; then that “grace and peace” are not only His who had them published, but His likewise to whom offence had been given. For neither does *grace* exist, except after offence; nor *peace*, except after war.

5386 Præstructio.

5387 Titulo.

5388 [1 Cor. i. 3.](#)

5389 Appellant.

5390 Officio.

5391 [Isa. lii. 7.](#)

5392 Pacem quam præferendam.

5393 [1 Cor. i. 3.](#)

5394 Competentibus nostro quoque sacramento.

5395 Nisi ex accedentibus cui magis competant.

Now, both the people (of Israel) by their transgression of His laws,⁵³⁹⁶ and the whole race of mankind by their neglect of natural duty,⁵³⁹⁷ had both sinned and rebelled against the Creator. Marcion's god, however, could not have been offended, both because he was unknown to everybody, and because he is incapable of being irritated. What *grace*, therefore, can be had of a god who has not been offended? What *peace* from one who has never experienced rebellion? "The cross of Christ," he says, "is to them that perish foolishness; but unto such as shall obtain salvation, it is the power of God and the wisdom of God."⁵³⁹⁸ And then, that we may know from whence this comes, he adds: "For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.'⁵³⁹⁹ Now, since these are the Creator's words, and since what pertains to the doctrine⁵⁴⁰⁰ of the cross he accounts as foolishness, therefore both the cross, and also Christ by reason of the cross, will appertain to the Creator, by whom were predicted the incidents of the cross. But if⁵⁴⁰¹ the Creator, as an enemy, took away their wisdom in order that the cross of Christ, considered as his adversary, should be accounted foolishness, how by any possibility can the Creator have foretold anything about the cross of a Christ who is not His own, and of whom He knew nothing, when He published the prediction? But, again, how happens it, that in the system of a Lord⁵⁴⁰² who is so very good, and so profuse in mercy, some carry off salvation, when they believe the cross to be the wisdom and power of God, whilst others incur perdition, to whom the cross of Christ is accounted folly;—(how happens it, I repeat,) unless it is in the Creator's dispensation to have punished both the people of *Israel* and the human race, for some great offence committed against Him, with the loss of wisdom and prudence? What follows will confirm this suggestion, when he asks, "Hath not God infatuated the wisdom of this world?"⁵⁴⁰³ and when he adds the reason why: "For after that, in the wisdom of God, the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God⁵⁴⁰⁴ by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."⁵⁴⁰⁵ But first a word about the expression "*the world*;" because in this passage particularly,⁵⁴⁰⁶ the heretics expend a great deal of their subtlety in



5396 *Disciplinæ.*

5397 *Per naturæ dissimulationem.* This Fr. Junius explains by τὴν φύσεως ἀφοσίωσιν, in the sense of "*original sin*" (ἀφοσιοῦσθαι seems to point to sin requiring *expiation*).

5398 [1 Cor. i. 18.](#)

5399 [1 Cor. i. 19, from Isa. xxix. 14.](#)

5400 *Causam.*

5401 *Aut si:* introducing a Marcionite cavil.

5402 *Apud dominum.*

5403 [1 Cor. i. 20.](#)

5404 *Boni duxit Deus, εὐδόκησεν ὁ Θεός.*

5405 [1 Cor. i. 21.](#)

5406 *Hic vel maxime.*

showing that by *world* is meant *the lord of the world*. We, however, understand the term to apply to any person that is in the world, by a simple idiom of human language, which often substitutes that which contains for that which is contained. “The circus shouted,” “The forum spoke,” and “The basilica murmured,” are well-known expressions, meaning that the people in these places did so. Since then the man, not the god, of the world⁵⁴⁰⁷ in his wisdom knew not God, whom indeed he ought to have known (both the Jew by his knowledge of the Scriptures, and all the human race by their knowledge of God’s works), therefore that God, who was not acknowledged in His wisdom, resolved to smite men’s knowledge with His foolishness, by saving all those who believe in the folly of the preached cross. “Because the Jews require signs,” who ought to have already made up their minds about God, “and the Greeks seek after wisdom,”⁵⁴⁰⁸ who rely upon their own wisdom, and not upon God’s. If, however, it was a new god that was being preached, what sin had the Jews committed, in seeking after signs to believe; or the Greeks, when they hunted after a wisdom which they would prefer to accept? Thus the very retribution which overtook both Jews and Greeks proves that God is both a jealous God and a Judge, inasmuch as He infatuated the world’s wisdom by an angry⁵⁴⁰⁹ and a judicial retribution. Since, then, the causes⁵⁴¹⁰ are in the hands of Him who gave us the Scriptures which we use, it follows that the apostle, when treating of the Creator, (as Him whom both Jew and Gentile as yet have) not known, means undoubtedly to teach us, that the God who is to become known (in Christ) is the Creator. The very “stumbling-block” which he declares Christ to be “to the Jews,”⁵⁴¹¹ points unmistakably⁵⁴¹² to the Creator’s prophecy respecting Him, when by Isaiah He says: “Behold I lay in Sion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence.”⁵⁴¹³ This rock or stone is Christ.⁵⁴¹⁴ This stumbling-stone Marcion retains still.⁵⁴¹⁵ Now, what is that “foolishness of God which is wiser than men,” but the cross and death of Christ? What is that “weakness of God which



5407 That is, “man who lives in the world, not God who made the world.”

5408 [1 Cor. i. 22.](#)

5409 Æmula.

5410 Causæ: the *reasons* of His retributive providence.

5411 [1 Cor. i. 23.](#)

5412 Consignat.

5413 [Isa. viii. 14.](#)

5414 [Isa. xxviii. 16.](#)

5415 “Etiam Marcion servat.” These words cannot mean, as they have been translated, that “Marcion even retains these words” of prophecy; for whenever Marcion fell in with any traces of this prophecy of Christ, he seems to have expunged them. In [Luke ii. 34](#) holy Simeon referred to it, but Marcion rejected this chapter of the evangelist; and although he admitted much of chap. xx., it is remarkable that he erased the ten verses thereof

is stronger than men,”⁵⁴¹⁶ but the nativity and incarnation⁵⁴¹⁷ of God? If, however, Christ was not born of the Virgin, was not constituted of human flesh, and thereby really suffered neither death nor the cross, there was nothing in Him either of foolishness or weakness; nor is it any longer true, that “God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise;” nor, again, hath “God chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty;” nor “the base things” and the least things “in the world, and things which are despised, which are even as nothing” (that is, things which really⁵⁴¹⁸ are not), “to bring to nothing things which are” (that is, which really are).⁵⁴¹⁹ For nothing in the dispensation of God is found to be mean, and ignoble, and contemptible. Such only occurs in man’s arrangement. The very Old Testament of the Creator⁵⁴²⁰ itself, it is possible, no doubt, to charge with foolishness, and weakness, and dishonour and meanness, and contempt. What is more foolish and more weak than God’s requirement of bloody sacrifices and of savoury holocausts? What is weaker than the cleansing of vessels and of beds?⁵⁴²¹ What more dishonourable than the discoloration of the reddening skin?⁵⁴²² What so mean as the statute of retaliation? What so contemptible as the exception in meats and drinks? The whole of the Old Testament, the heretic, to the best of my belief, holds in derision. For God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound its wisdom. Marcion’s god has no such discipline, because he does not take after⁵⁴²³ (the Creator) in the process of confusing opposites by their opposites, so that “no flesh shall glory; but, as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.”⁵⁴²⁴ In what Lord? Surely in Him who gave this precept.⁵⁴²⁵ Unless, forsooth, the Creator enjoined us to glory in the god of Marcion.

from the end of the eighth to the end of the eighteenth. Now in vers. 17, 18, Marcion found the prophecy again referred to. See Epiphanius, *Adv. Hæres.* xlii. *Schol.* 55.

5416 1 Cor. i. 25.

5417 Caro.

5418 Vere.

5419 1 Cor. i. 27.

5420 Apud Creatorem etiam vetera: (*vetera*, i.e.) “veteris testamenti institutiones” (Oehler).

5421 Lev. xv. *passim*.

5422 Lev. xiii. 2–6.

5423 Æmulatur.

5424 1 Cor. i. 29, 31.

5425 By Jeremiah, chap. ix. 23, 24.

Chapter VI.—The Divine Way of Wisdom, and Greatness, and Might. God's Hiding of Himself, and Subsequent Revelation. To Marcion's God Such a Concealment and Manifestation Impossible. God's Predestination. No Such Prior System of Intention Possible to a God Previously Unknown as Was Marcion's. The Powers of the World Which Crucified Christ. St. Paul, as a Wise Master-Builder, Associated with Prophecy. Sundry Injunctions of the Apostle Parallel with the Teaching of the Old Testament.

By all these statements, therefore, does he show us what God he means, when he says, "We speak the wisdom of God among them that are perfect."⁵⁴²⁶ It is that God who has confounded the wisdom of the wise, who has brought to nought the understanding of the prudent, who has reduced to folly⁵⁴²⁷ the world's wisdom, by choosing its foolish things, and disposing them to the attainment of salvation. This wisdom, he says, once lay hidden in things that were foolish, weak, and lacking in honour; once also was latent under figures, allegories, and enigmatical types; but it was afterwards to be revealed in Christ, who was set "as a light to the Gentiles,"⁵⁴²⁸ by the Creator who promised through the mouth of Isaiah that He would discover "the hidden treasures, which eye had not seen."⁵⁴²⁹ Now, that that god should have ever hidden anything who had never made a cover wherein to practise concealment, is in itself a wholly incredible idea. If he existed, concealment of himself was out of the question—to say nothing⁵⁴³⁰ of any of his religious ordinances.⁵⁴³¹ The Creator, on the contrary, was as well known in Himself as His ordinances were. These, we know, were publicly instituted⁵⁴³² in Israel; but they lay overshadowed with latent meanings, in which the wisdom of God was concealed,⁵⁴³³ to be brought to light by and by amongst "the perfect," when the time should come, but "pre-ordained in the counsels of God before the ages."⁵⁴³⁴ But whose ages, if not the Creator's? For because ages consist of times, and times are made up of days, and months, and years; since also days, and months, and years are measured by suns, and moons, and stars, which He ordained for this purpose (for "they shall be," says He, "for signs of the months and the years"),⁵⁴³⁵ it clearly follows that the

5426 [1 Cor. ii. 6, 7.](#)

5427 [Infatuavit.](#)

5428 [Isa. xlii. 6.](#)

5429 [Isa. xlv. 3 \(Septuagint\).](#)

5430 [Nedum.](#)

5431 [Sacramenta.](#)

5432 [Palam decurrentia.](#)

5433 [Delitescebat.](#)

5434 [1 Cor. ii. 7.](#)

5435 [Gen. i. 14, inexactly quoted.](#)

ages belong to the Creator, and that nothing of what was fore-ordained before the ages can be said to be the property of any other being than Him who claims the ages also as His own. Else let Marcion show that the ages belong to his god. He must then also claim the world itself for him; for it is in it that the ages are reckoned, the vessel as it were⁵⁴³⁶ of the times, as well as the signs thereof, or their order. But he has no such demonstration to show us. I go back therefore to the point, and ask him this question: Why did (his god) fore-ordain our glory before the ages of the Creator? I could understand his having predetermined it before the ages, if he had revealed it at the commencement of time.⁵⁴³⁷ But when he does this almost at the very expiration of all the ages⁵⁴³⁸ of the Creator, his predestination before the ages, and not rather within the ages, was in vain, because he did not mean to make any revelation of his purpose until the ages had almost run out their course. For it is wholly inconsistent in him to be so forward in planning purposes, who is so backward in revealing them.

In the Creator, however, the two courses were perfectly compatible—both the predestination before the ages and the revelation at the end thereof, because that which He both fore-ordained and revealed He also in the intermediate space of time announced by the preministration of figures, and symbols, and allegories. But because (the apostle) subjoins, on the subject of our glory, that “none of the princes of this world knew it, for had they known it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory,”⁵⁴³⁹ the heretic argues that the princes of this world crucified the Lord (that is, the Christ of the rival god) in order that this *blow* might even recoil⁵⁴⁴⁰ on the Creator Himself. Any one, however, who has seen from what we have already said how our glory must be regarded as issuing from the Creator, will already have come to the conclusion that, inasmuch as the Creator settled it in His own secret purpose, it properly enough was unknown to all the princes⁵⁴⁴¹ and powers of the Creator, on the principle that servants are not permitted to know their masters’ plans, much less the fallen angels and the leader of transgression himself, the devil; for I should contend that *these*, on account of their fall, were greater strangers still to any knowledge of the Creator’s dispensations. But it is no longer open to me⁵⁴⁴² even to interpret the princes and powers of this world as the Creator’s, since the apostle imputes ignorance to *them*, whereas even the devil according to our Gospel recognised Jesus in the temptation,⁵⁴⁴³ and, according to

5436 Quodammodo.

5437 Introductione sæculi.

5438 Pæne jam totis sæculis productis.

5439 1 Cor. ii. 8.

5440 Ut et hoc recidat.

5441 Virtutibus.

5442 Sed jam nec mihi competit.

5443 Matt. iv. 1–11.

the record which is common to both (Marcionites and ourselves) the evil spirit knew that Jesus was the Holy One of God, and that Jesus was His name, and that He was come to destroy them.⁵⁴⁴⁴ The parable also of the strong man armed, whom a stronger than he overcame and seized his goods, is admitted by Marcion to have reference to the Creator:⁵⁴⁴⁵ therefore the Creator could not have been ignorant any longer of the God of glory, since He is overcome by him;⁵⁴⁴⁶ nor could He have crucified him whom He was unable to cope with. The inevitable inference, therefore, as it seems to me, is that we must believe that the princes and powers of the Creator did knowingly crucify the God of glory in His Christ, with that desperation and excessive malice with which the most abandoned slaves do not even hesitate to slay their masters. For it is written in my Gospel⁵⁴⁴⁷ that “Satan entered into Judas.”⁵⁴⁴⁸ According to Marcion, however, the apostle in the passage under consideration⁵⁴⁴⁹ does not allow the imputation of ignorance, with respect to the Lord of glory, to the powers of the Creator; because, indeed, he will have it that these are not meant by “the princes of this world.” But (the apostle) evidently⁵⁴⁵⁰ did not speak of spiritual princes; so that he meant secular ones, those of the princely people, (chief in the divine dispensation, although) not, of course, amongst the nations of the world, and their rulers, and king Herod, and even Pilate, and, as represented by him,⁵⁴⁵¹ that power of Rome which was the greatest in the world, and then presided over by him. Thus the arguments of the other side are pulled down, and our own proofs are thereby built up. But you still maintain that our glory comes from your god, with whom it also lay in secret. Then why does your god employ the self-same Scripture⁵⁴⁵² which the apostle also relies on? What has your god to do at all with the sayings of the prophets? “Who hath discovered the mind of the Lord, or who hath been His counsellor?”⁵⁴⁵³ So says Isaiah. What has he also to do with illustrations from our God? For when (the apostle) calls himself “a wise master-builder,”⁵⁴⁵⁴ we find that the Creator by Isaiah designates the teacher who sketches⁵⁴⁵⁵ out the divine discipline by the same title, “I

5444 [Luke iv. 34.](#)

5445 In Creatoris accipitur apud Marcionem.

5446 Considered, in the hypothesis, as Marcion's god.

5447 Apud me.

5448 [Luke xxii. 3.](#)

5449 [1 Cor. ii. 8.](#)

5450 Videtur.

5451 Et quo.

5452 Instrumento.

5453 [Isa. xl. 13.](#)

5454 [1 Cor. iii. 10.](#)

5455 Depalatozem.

will take away from Judah *the cunning artificer*,⁵⁴⁵⁶ etc. And was it not Paul himself who was there foretold, destined “to be taken away from Judah”—that is, from Judaism—for the erection of Christianity, in order “to lay that only foundation, which is Christ?”⁵⁴⁵⁷ Of this work the Creator also by the same prophet says, “Behold, I lay in Sion for a foundation a precious stone and honourable; and he that resteth thereon shall not be confounded.”⁵⁴⁵⁸ Unless it be, that God professed *Himself* to be the builder up of an earthly work, that so He might not give any sign of His Christ, as destined to be the foundation of such as believe in Him, upon which every man should build at will the superstructure of either sound or worthless doctrine; forasmuch as it is the Creator’s function, when a man’s work shall be tried by fire, (or) when a reward shall be recompensed to him by fire; because it is by fire that the test is applied to the building which you erect upon the foundation which is laid by Him, that is, the foundation of His Christ.⁵⁴⁵⁹ “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”⁵⁴⁶⁰ Now, since man is the property, and the work, and the image and likeness of the Creator, having his flesh, formed by Him of the ground, and his soul of His *afflatus*, it follows that Marcion’s god wholly dwells in a temple which belongs to another, if so be we are not the Creator’s temple. But “if any man defile the temple of God, he shall be himself destroyed”⁵⁴⁶¹—of course, by the God of the temple.⁵⁴⁶² If you threaten an avenger, you threaten us with the Creator. “Ye must become fools, that ye may be wise.”⁵⁴⁶³ Wherefore? “Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.”⁵⁴⁶⁴ With what God? Even if the ancient Scriptures have contributed nothing in support of our view thus far,⁵⁴⁶⁵ an excellent testimony turns up in what (the apostle) here



5456 So the A.V. of [Isa. iii. 3](#); but the Septuagint and St. Paul use the self-same term, σοφὸς ἀρχιτέκτων.

5457 [1 Cor. iii. 11](#).

5458 [Isa. xxviii. 16](#).

5459 We add the original of this sentence: “Nisi si structorem se terreni operis Deus profitebatur, ut non de suo Christo significaret, qui futurus esset fundamentum credentium in eum, super quod prout quisque superstruxerit, dignam scilicet vel indignam doctrinam si opus ejus per ignem probabitur, si merces illi per ignem rependetur, creatoris est, quia per ignem judicatur vestra superædificatio, utique sui fundamenti, id est sui Christi.” Tertullian is arguing upon an hypothesis suggested by Marcion’s withdrawal of *his* Christ from everything “terrene.” Such a process as is described by St. Paul in this passage, [1 Cor. i. 12–15](#), must be left to the Creator and *His* Christ.

5460 [1 Cor. iii. 16](#).

5461 The text has *vitiabitur*, “shall be defiled.”

5462 [1 Cor. iii. 17](#).

5463 [1 Cor. iii. 18](#).

5464 [1 Cor. iii. 19](#).

5465 The older reading, “*adhuc* sensum pristina præjudicaverunt,” we have preferred to Oehler’s “*ad hunc sensum*,” etc.

adjoins: “For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness; and again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.”⁵⁴⁶⁶ For in general we may conclude for certain that he could not possibly have cited the authority of that God whom he was bound to destroy, since he would not teach for Him.⁵⁴⁶⁷ “Therefore,” says he, “let no man glory in man;”⁵⁴⁶⁸ an injunction which is in accordance with the teaching of the Creator, “wretched is the man that trusteth in man;”⁵⁴⁶⁹ again, “It is better to trust in the Lord than to confide in man;”⁵⁴⁷⁰ and the same thing is said about glorying (in princes).⁵⁴⁷¹

5466 1 Cor. iii. 19, 20; Job v. 13; Ps. xciv. 11.

5467 Si non illi doceret.

5468 1 Cor. iii. 21.

5469 Jer. xvii. 5.

5470 Ps. cxviii. 8.

5471 Ps. cxviii. 9.

Chapter VII.—St. Paul's Phraseology Often Suggested by the Jewish Scriptures. Christ Our Passover—A Phrase Which Introduces Us to the Very Heart of the Ancient Dispensation. Christ's True Corporeity. Married and Unmarried States. Meaning of the Time is Short. In His Exhortations and Doctrine, the Apostle Wholly Teaches According to the Mind and Purposes of the God of the Old Testament. Prohibition of Meats and Drinks Withdrawn by the Creator.

“And the hidden things of darkness He will Himself bring to light,”⁵⁴⁷² even by Christ; for He has promised Christ to be a Light,⁵⁴⁷³ and Himself He has declared to be a lamp, “searching the hearts and reins.”⁵⁴⁷⁴ From Him also shall “praise be had by every man,”⁵⁴⁷⁵ from whom proceeds, as from a judge, the opposite also of praise. But here, at least, you say he interprets the world to be the God thereof, when he says: “We are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.”⁵⁴⁷⁶ For if by world he had meant the people thereof, he would not have afterwards specially mentioned “*men*.” To prevent, however, your using such an argument as this, the Holy Ghost has providentially explained the meaning of the passage thus: “We are made a spectacle to the world,” *i.e.* “both to *angels*,” who minister therein, “and to *men*,” who are the objects of their ministration.⁵⁴⁷⁷ Of course,⁵⁴⁷⁸ a man of the noble courage of our apostle (to say nothing of the Holy Ghost) was afraid, when writing to the children whom he had begotten in the gospel, to speak freely of the God of the world; for against Him he could not possibly seem to have a word to say, except only in a straightforward manner!⁵⁴⁷⁹ I quite admit, that, according to the Creator's law,⁵⁴⁸⁰ the man was an offender “who had his father's wife.”⁵⁴⁸¹ He followed, no doubt,⁵⁴⁸² the principles of natural and public law. When, however, he condemns the man “to be delivered unto Satan,”⁵⁴⁸³ he becomes the herald of an avenging God. It does not matter⁵⁴⁸⁴ that he



5472 1 Cor. iv. 5.

5473 Isa. xlii. 6.

5474 Ps. vii. 9.

5475 1 Cor. iv. 5.

5476 1 Cor. iv. 9.

5477 Our author's version is no doubt right. The Greek does not admit the co-ordinate, triple conjunction of the A.V.: Θεάτρον ἐγενήθημεν τῷ κόσμῳ—καὶ ἀγγέλοις καὶ ἀνθρώποις.

5478 Nimirum: introducing a strong ironical sentence against Marcion's conceit.

5479 Nisi exserte.

5480 Lev. xviii. 8.

5481 1 Cor. v. 1.

5482 Secutus sit.

5483 1 Cor. v. 5.

5484 Viderit.

also said, "For the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord,"⁵⁴⁸⁵ since both in the destruction of the flesh and in the saving of the spirit there is, on His part, judicial process; and when he bade "the wicked person be put away from the midst of them,"⁵⁴⁸⁶ he only mentioned what is a very frequently recurring sentence of the Creator. "Purge out the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened."⁵⁴⁸⁷ The unleavened bread was therefore, in the Creator's ordinance, a figure of us (Christians). "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us."⁵⁴⁸⁸ But why is Christ our passover, if the passover be not a type of Christ, in the similitude of the blood which saves, and of the Lamb, which is Christ?⁵⁴⁸⁹ Why does (the apostle) clothe us and Christ with symbols of the Creator's solemn rites, unless they had relation to ourselves? When, again, he warns us against fornication, he reveals the resurrection of the flesh. "The body," says he, "is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body,"⁵⁴⁹⁰ just as the temple is for God, and God for the temple. A temple will therefore pass away⁵⁴⁹¹ with its god, and its god with the temple. You see, then, how that "He who raised up the Lord will also raise us up."⁵⁴⁹² In the body will He raise us, because the body is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And suitably does he add the question: "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ?"⁵⁴⁹³ What has the heretic to say? That these members of Christ will not rise again, for they are no longer our own? "For," he says, "ye are bought with a price."⁵⁴⁹⁴ A price! surely none at all was paid, since Christ was a phantom, nor had He any corporeal substance which He could pay for our bodies! But, in truth, Christ had wherewithal to redeem us; and since He has redeemed, at a great price, these bodies of ours, against which fornication must not be committed (because they are now members of Christ, and not our own), surely He will secure, on His own account, the safety of those whom He made His own at so much cost! Now, how shall we glorify, how shall we exalt, God in our body,⁵⁴⁹⁵ which is doomed to perish? We must now encounter the subject of marriage, which Marcion, more continent⁵⁴⁹⁶ than

5485 1 Cor. v. 5.

5486 1 Cor. v. 13.

5487 1 Cor. v. 7.

5488 1 Cor. v. 7.

5489 Ex. xii.

5490 1 Cor. vi. 13.

5491 Peribit.

5492 1 Cor. vi. 14.

5493 1 Cor. vi. 15.

5494 1 Cor. vi. 20.

5495 1 Cor. vi. 20.

5496 Constantior: ironically predicated.

the apostle, prohibits. For the apostle, although preferring the grace of continence,⁵⁴⁹⁷ yet permits the contraction of marriage and the enjoyment of it,⁵⁴⁹⁸ and advises the continuance therein rather than the dissolution thereof.⁵⁴⁹⁹ Christ plainly forbids divorce, Moses unquestionably permits it.⁵⁵⁰⁰

Now, when Marcion wholly prohibits all carnal intercourse to the faithful (for we will say nothing⁵⁵⁰¹ about his catechumens), and when he prescribes repudiation of all engagements before marriage, whose teaching does he follow, that of Moses or of Christ? Even Christ,⁵⁵⁰² however, when He here commands “the wife not to depart from her husband, or if she depart, to remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband,”⁵⁵⁰³ both permitted divorce, which indeed He never absolutely prohibited, and confirmed (the sanctity) of marriage, by first forbidding its dissolution; and, if separation had taken place, by wishing the nuptial bond to be resumed by reconciliation. But what reasons does (the apostle) allege for continence? Because “the time is short.”⁵⁵⁰⁴ I had almost thought it was because in Christ there was another god! And yet He from whom emanates this shortness of the time, will also send what suits the said brevity. No one makes provision for the time which is another's. You degrade your god, O Marcion, when you make him circumscribed at all by the Creator's time. Assuredly also, when (the apostle) rules that marriage should be “only in the Lord,”⁵⁵⁰⁵ that no Christian should intermarry with a heathen, he maintains a law of the Creator, who everywhere prohibits marriage with strangers. But when he says, “although there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth,”⁵⁵⁰⁶ the meaning of his words is clear—not as if there were gods in reality, but as if there were some who are called gods, without being truly so. He introduces his discussion about meats offered to idols with a statement concerning idols (themselves): “We know that an idol is nothing in the world.”⁵⁵⁰⁷



5497 1 Cor. vii. 7, 8.

5498 1 Cor. vii. 9, 13, 14.

5499 1 Cor. vii. 27.

5500 One of Marcion's *Antitheses*.

5501 *Viderint*.

5502 *Et Christus*: Pamelius and Rigaltius here read “*Christi apostolus*.” Oehler defends the text as the author's phrase suggested (as Fr. Junius says) by the preceding words, “*Moses or Christ*.” To which we may add, that in this particular place St. Paul mentions his injunction as *Christ's especially*, οὐκ ἐγὼ, ἀλλ' ὁ Κύριος, 1 Cor. vii. 10.

5503 1 Cor. vii. 10, 11.

5504 1 Cor. vii. 29.

5505 1 Cor. vii. 39.

5506 1 Cor. viii. 5.

5507 1 Cor. viii. 4.

Marcion, however, does not say that the Creator is not God; so that the apostle can hardly be thought to have ranked the Creator amongst those who are called gods, without being so; since, even if they had been gods, “to us there is but one God, the Father.”⁵⁵⁰⁸ Now, from whom do all things come to us, but from Him to whom all things belong? And pray, what things are these? You have them in a preceding part of the epistle: “All things are yours; whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come.”⁵⁵⁰⁹ He makes the Creator, then the God of all things, from whom proceed both the world and life and death, which cannot possibly belong to the other god. From Him, therefore, amongst the “*all things*” comes also Christ.⁵⁵¹⁰ When he teaches that every man ought to live of his own industry,⁵⁵¹¹ he begins with a copious induction of examples—of soldiers, and shepherds, and husbandmen.⁵⁵¹² But he⁵⁵¹³ wanted divine authority. What was the use, however, of adducing the Creator’s, which he was destroying? It was vain to do so; for his god had no such authority! (The apostle) says: “Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn,”⁵⁵¹⁴ and adds: “Doth God take care of oxen?” Yes, of oxen, for the sake of men! For, says he, “it is written for our sakes.”⁵⁵¹⁵ Thus he showed that the law had a symbolic reference to ourselves, and that it gives its sanction in favour of those who live of the gospel. (He showed) also, that those who preach the gospel are on this account sent by no other god but Him to whom belongs the law, which made provision for them, when he says: “For our sakes was this written.”⁵⁵¹⁶ Still he declined to use this power which the law gave him, because he preferred working without any restraint.⁵⁵¹⁷ Of this he boasted, and suffered no man to rob him of such glory⁵⁵¹⁸—certainly with no view of destroying the law, which he proved that another man might use. For behold Marcion, in his blindness, stumbled at the rock whereof our fathers drank in the wilderness. For since “that rock was Christ,”⁵⁵¹⁹ it was, of course, the Creator’s, to whom also belonged the people. But why resort to the figure of a sacred sign given by an extraneous god?⁵⁵²⁰ Was it to teach the very truth,

5508 1 Cor. viii. 6.

5509 1 Cor. iii. 21, 22.

5510 1 Cor. iii. 23.

5511 1 Cor. ix. 13.

5512 1 Cor. ix. 7.

5513 He turns to Marcion’s god.

5514 1 Cor. ix. 9 and Deut. xxv. 4.

5515 1 Cor. xi. 10.

5516 Comp. 1 Cor. ix. 13, 14, with Deut. xviii. 1, 2.

5517 Gratis.

5518 1 Cor. ix. 15.

5519 1 Cor. x. 4.

5520 Figuram extranei sacramenti.

that ancient things prefigured the Christ who was to be educed⁵⁵²¹ out of them? For, being about to take a cursory view of what befell the people (of Israel) he begins with saying: "Now these things happened as examples for us."⁵⁵²² Now, tell me, were these examples given by the Creator to men belonging to a rival god? Or did one god borrow examples from another, and a hostile one too? He withdraws me to himself in alarm⁵⁵²³ from Him from whom he transfers my allegiance. Will his antagonist make me better disposed to him? Should I now commit the same sins as the people, shall I have to suffer the same penalties, or not?⁵⁵²⁴ But if not the same, how vainly does he propose to me terrors which I shall not have to endure! From whom, again, shall I have to endure them? If from the Creator, What evils does it appertain to *Him* to inflict? And how will it happen that, jealous God as He is, He shall punish the man who offends His rival, instead of rather encouraging⁵⁵²⁵ him. If, however, from the other god—but *he* knows not how to punish. So that the whole declaration of the apostle lacks a reasonable basis, if it is not meant to relate to the Creator's discipline. But the fact is, the apostle's conclusion corresponds to the beginning: "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."⁵⁵²⁶ What a Creator! how prescient already, and considerate in warning Christians who belong to another god! Whenever cavils occur the like to those which have been already dealt with, I pass them by; certain others I despatch briefly. A great argument for another god is the permission to eat of all kinds of meats, contrary to the law.⁵⁵²⁷ Just as if we did not ourselves allow that the burdensome ordinances of the law were abrogated—but by Him who imposed them, who also promised the new condition of things.⁵⁵²⁸ The same, therefore, who prohibited meats, also restored the use of them, just as He had indeed allowed them from the beginning. If, however, some strange god had come to destroy our God, his foremost prohibition would certainly have been, that his own votaries should abstain from supporting their lives on the resources of his adversary.



5521 Recensendum.

5522 1 Cor. x. 6.

5523 Me terret sibi.

5524 1 Cor. x. 7–10.

5525 Magis quam foveat.

5526 1 Cor. x. 11.

5527 1 Cor. x. 25–27.

5528 Novationem.

Chapter VIII.—Man the Image of the Creator, and Christ the Head of the Man.
Spiritual Gifts. The Sevenfold Spirit Described by Isaiah. The Apostle and the
Prophet Compared. Marcion Challenged to Produce Anything Like These Gifts
of the Spirit Foretold in Prophecy in His God.

“The head of every man is Christ.”⁵⁵²⁹ What Christ, if He is not the author of man? The *head* he has here put for *authority*; now “authority” will accrue to none else than the “author.” Of what man indeed is He the head? Surely of him concerning whom he adds soon afterwards: “The man ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image of God.”⁵⁵³⁰ Since then he is the image of the Creator (for *He*, when looking on Christ His Word, who was to become man, said, “Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness”⁵⁵³¹), how can I possibly have another head but Him whose image I am? For if I am the image of the Creator there is no room in me for another head. But wherefore “ought the woman to have power over her head, because of the angels?”⁵⁵³² If it is because “she was created for the man,”⁵⁵³³ and taken out of the man, according to the Creator’s purpose, then in this way too has the apostle maintained the discipline of that God from whose institution he explains the reasons of His discipline. He adds: “Because of the angels.”⁵⁵³⁴ What angels? In other words, whose angels? If he means the fallen angels of the Creator,⁵⁵³⁵ there is great propriety in his meaning. It is right that that face which was a snare to them should wear some mark of a humble guise and obscured beauty. If, however, the angels of the rival god are referred to, what fear is there for them? for not even Marcion’s disciples, (to say nothing of his angels,) have any desire for women. We have often shown before now, that the apostle classes heresies as evil⁵⁵³⁶ among “works of the flesh,” and that he would have those persons accounted estimable⁵⁵³⁷ who shun heresies as an evil thing. In like manner, when treating of the gospel,⁵⁵³⁸ we have proved from the sacrament of the bread and the cup⁵⁵³⁹ the verity of the Lord’s body and blood in opposition to Marcion’s phantom; whilst throughout almost the whole

5529 1 Cor. xi. 3.

5530 1 Cor. xi. 7.

5531 Gen. i. 26.

5532 1 Cor. xi. 10.

5533 1 Cor. xi. 9.

5534 1 Cor. xi. 10.

5535 See more concerning these in chap. xviii. of this book. Comp. Gen. vi. 1–4.

5536 1 Cor. xi. 18, 19.

5537 Probables: “approved.”

5538 See above, in book iv. chap. xl.

5539 Luke xxii. 15–20 and 1 Cor. xi. 23–29.

of my work it has been contended that all mention of judicial attributes points conclusively to the Creator as to a God who judges. Now, on the subject of “spiritual gifts,”⁵⁵⁴⁰ I have to remark that these also were promised by the Creator through Christ; and I think that we may derive from this a very just conclusion that the bestowal of a gift is not the work of a god other than Him who is proved to have given the promise. Here is a prophecy of Isaiah: “There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a flower⁵⁵⁴¹ shall spring up from his root; and upon Him shall rest the Spirit of the Lord.” After which he enumerates the special gifts of the same: “The spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of religion.⁵⁵⁴² And with the fear of the Lord⁵⁵⁴³ shall the Spirit fill Him.”⁵⁵⁴⁴ In this figure of a *flower* he shows that Christ was to arise out of the rod which sprang from the stem of Jesse; in other words, from the virgin of the race of David, the son of Jesse. In this Christ the whole *substantia* of the Spirit would have to rest, not meaning that it would be as it were some subsequent acquisition accruing to Him who was always, even before His incarnation, the Spirit of God;⁵⁵⁴⁵ so that you cannot argue from this that the prophecy has reference to that Christ who (as mere man of the race only of David) was to obtain the Spirit of his God. (The prophet says,) on the contrary, that from the time when (the true Christ) should appear in the flesh as *the flower predicted*,⁵⁵⁴⁶ rising from the root of Jesse, there would have to rest upon Him the entire operation of the Spirit of grace, which, so far as the Jews were concerned, would cease and come to an end. This result the case itself shows; for after this time the Spirit of the Creator never breathed amongst *them*. From Judah were taken away “the wise man, and the cunning artificer, and the counsellor, and the prophet;”⁵⁵⁴⁷ that so it might prove true that “the law and the prophets were until John.”⁵⁵⁴⁸ Now hear how he declared that by Christ Himself, when returned to heaven, these spiritual gifts were to be sent: “He ascended up on high,” that is, into heaven; “He led captivity captive,” meaning death or slavery of man; “He gave gifts to the sons of men,”⁵⁵⁴⁹ that is, the gratuities, which we call *charismata*. He says specifically “*sons of*

5540 1 Cor. xii. 1.

5541 Flos: Sept. ἄνθος.

5542 Religionis: Sept. εὐσεβείας.

5543 Timor Dei: Sept. φόβος Θεοῦ.

5544 Isa. xi. 1–3.

5545 We have more than once shown that by Tertullian and other ancient fathers, *the divine nature* of Christ was frequently designated “Spirit.”

5546 Floruisset in carne.

5547 See Isa. iii. 2, 3.

5548 Luke xvi. 16.

5549 1 Cor. xii. 4–11; Eph. iv. 8, and Ps. lxxviii. 18.

men,”⁵⁵⁵⁰ and not men promiscuously; thus exhibiting to us those who were the children of men truly so called, choice men, apostles. “For,” says he, “I have begotten you through the gospel;”⁵⁵⁵¹ and “Ye are my children, of whom I travail again in birth.”⁵⁵⁵² Now was absolutely fulfilled that promise of the Spirit which was given by the word of Joel: “In the last days will I pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh, and their sons and their daughters shall prophesy; and upon my servants and upon my handmaids will I pour out of my Spirit.”⁵⁵⁵³ Since, then, the Creator promised the gift of His Spirit in the latter days; and since Christ has in these last days appeared as the dispenser of spiritual gifts (as the apostle says, “When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son;”⁵⁵⁵⁴ and again, “This I say, brethren, that the time is short”⁵⁵⁵⁵), it evidently follows in connection with this prediction of the last days, that this gift of the Spirit belongs to Him who is the Christ of the predictors. Now compare the Spirit’s specific graces, as they are described by the apostle, and promised by the prophet Isaiah. “To one is given,” says he, “by the Spirit the word of wisdom;” this we see at once is what Isaiah declared to be “the spirit of wisdom.” “To another, the word of knowledge;” this will be “the (prophet’s) spirit of understanding and counsel.” “To another, faith by the same Spirit;” this will be “the spirit of religion and the fear of the Lord.” “To another, the gifts of healing, and to another the working of miracles;” this will be “the spirit of might.” “To another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another divers kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues;” this will be “the spirit of knowledge.”⁵⁵⁵⁶ See how the apostle agrees with the prophet both in making the distribution of the one Spirit, and in interpreting His special graces. This, too, I may confidently say: he who has likened the unity of our body throughout its manifold and divers members to the compacting together of the various gifts of the Spirit,⁵⁵⁵⁷ shows also that there is but one Lord of the human body and of the Holy Spirit. This Spirit, (according to the apostle’s showing,)⁵⁵⁵⁸ meant not⁵⁵⁵⁹ that the service⁵⁵⁶⁰ of these gifts should be in the body,⁵⁵⁶¹ nor did He place

5550 He argues from his own reading, *filiis hominum*.

5551 1 Cor. iv. 15.

5552 Gal. iv. 19.

5553 Joel ii. 28, 29, applied by St. Peter, Acts ii. 17, 18.

5554 Gal. iv. 4.

5555 1 Cor. vii. 29. [The verse filled out by the translator.]

5556 Comp. 1 Cor. xii. 8–11 and Isa. xi. 1–3.

5557 1 Cor. xii. 12–30, compared with Eph. iv. 16.

5558 This seems to be the force of the subjunctive verb *noluerit*.

5559 *Noluerit*.

5560 *Meritum*.

5561 They are *spiritual* gifts, not endowments of body.

them in the human body); and on the subject of the superiority of love⁵⁵⁶² above all these gifts, He even taught the apostle that it was the chief commandment,⁵⁵⁶³ just as Christ has shown it to be: “Thou shalt love the Lord with all thine heart and soul,⁵⁵⁶⁴ with all thy strength, and with all thy mind, and thy neighbour as thine own self.”⁵⁵⁶⁵ When he mentions the fact that “*it is written in the law*,”⁵⁵⁶⁶ how that the Creator would speak with other tongues and other lips, whilst confirming indeed the gift of tongues by such a mention, he yet cannot be thought to have affirmed that the gift was that of another god by his reference to the Creator’s prediction.⁵⁵⁶⁷ In precisely the same manner,⁵⁵⁶⁸ when enjoining on women silence in the church, that they speak not for the mere sake⁵⁵⁶⁹ of learning⁵⁵⁷⁰ (although that even they have the right of prophesying, he has already shown⁵⁵⁷¹ when he covers the woman that prophesies with a veil), he goes to the law for his sanction that woman should be under obedience.⁵⁵⁷² Now this law, let me say once for all, he ought to have made no other acquaintance with, than to destroy it. But that we may now leave the subject of spiritual gifts, facts themselves will be enough to prove which of us acts rashly in claiming them for his God, and whether it is possible that they are opposed to our side, even if⁵⁵⁷³ the Creator promised them for His Christ who is not yet revealed, as being destined only for the Jews, to have their operations in His time, in His Christ, and among His people. Let Marcion then exhibit, as gifts of his god, some prophets, such as have not spoken by human sense, but with the Spirit of God, such as have both predicted things to come, and have made manifest⁵⁵⁷⁴ the secrets of the heart;⁵⁵⁷⁵ let him produce a psalm, a vision, a prayer⁵⁵⁷⁶—only



5562 De dilectione præferenda.

5563 Compare 1 Cor. xii. 31; xiii. 1, 13.

5564 Totis præcordiis.

5565 Luke x. 27.

5566 “Here, as in John x. 34; xii. 34; xv. 25, ‘*the law*’ is used for the Old Testament generally, instead of being, as usual, confined to the Pentateuch. The passage is from Isa. xxviii. 11.” (Dean Stanley, *On the Corinthians*, in *loc.*).

5567 1 Cor. xiv. 21.

5568 Æque.

5569 Duntaxat gratia.

5570 1 Cor. xiv. 34, 35.

5571 1 Cor. xi. 5, 6. [See Kaye, p. 228.]

5572 1 Cor. xiv. 34, where Gen. iii. 16 is referred to.

5573 Et si: These words introduce the Marcionite theory.

5574 Traduxerint.

5575 1 Cor. xiv. 25.

5576 1 Cor. xiv. 26.

let it be by the Spirit,⁵⁵⁷⁷ in an ecstasy, that is, in a rapture,⁵⁵⁷⁸ whenever an interpretation of tongues has occurred to him; let him show to me also, that any woman of boastful tongue⁵⁵⁷⁹ in his community has ever prophesied from amongst those specially holy sisters of his. Now all these signs (of spiritual gifts) are forthcoming from my side without any difficulty, and they agree, too, with the rules, and the dispensations, and the instructions of the Creator; therefore without doubt the Christ, and the Spirit, and the apostle, belong severally⁵⁵⁸⁰ to my God. Here, then, is my frank avowal for any one who cares to require it.

5577 Duntaxat spiritalem: These words refer to the previous ones, “not spoken by human sense, but with the Spirit of God.” [Of course here is a touch of his *fanaticism*; but, he bases it on (1 Cor. xiv.) a mere question of fact: had these *charismata* ceased?]

5578 Amentia.

5579 Magnidicam.

5580 Erit.

Chapter IX.—The Doctrine of the Resurrection. The Body Will Rise Again. Christ's Judicial Character. Jewish Perversions of Prophecy Exposed and Confuted. Messianic Psalms Vindicated. Jewish and Rationalistic Interpretations on This Point Similar. Jesus—Not Hezekiah or Solomon—The Subject of These Prophecies in the Psalms. None But He is the Christ of the Old and the New Testaments.

Meanwhile the Marcionite will exhibit nothing of this kind; he is by this time afraid to say which side has the better right to a Christ who is not yet revealed. Just as my Christ is to be expected,⁵⁵⁸¹ who was predicted from the beginning, so his Christ therefore has no existence, as not having been *announced* from the beginning. Ours is a better faith, which believes in a future Christ, than the heretic's, which has none at all to believe in. Touching the resurrection of the dead,⁵⁵⁸² let us first inquire how some persons then denied it. No doubt in the same way in which it is even now denied, since the resurrection of the flesh has at all times men to deny it. But many wise men claim for the soul a divine nature, and are confident of its undying destiny, and even the multitude worship the dead⁵⁵⁸³ in the presumption which they boldly entertain that their souls survive. As for our bodies, however, it is manifest that they perish either at once by fire or the wild beasts,⁵⁵⁸⁴ or even when most carefully kept by length of time. When, therefore, the apostle refutes those who deny the resurrection of the flesh, he indeed defends, in opposition to them, the precise matter of their denial, that is, the resurrection of the body. You have the whole answer wrapped up in this.⁵⁵⁸⁵ All the rest is superfluous. Now in this very point, which is called the resurrection of the dead, it is requisite that the proper force of the words should be accurately maintained.⁵⁵⁸⁶ The word *dead* expresses simply what has lost the vital principle,⁵⁵⁸⁷ by means of which it used to live. Now the body is that which loses life, and as the result of losing it becomes dead. To the *body*, therefore, the term dead is only suitable. Moreover, as resurrection accrues to what is dead, and dead is a term applicable only to a body, therefore the body alone has a resurrection incidental to it. So again the word Resurrection, or (*rising again*), embraces only that which has fallen down. "To rise," indeed, can be predicated of that which has never fallen down, but had already been always lying down. But "to rise *again*" is predic-

5581 He here argues, as it will be readily observed, from the Marcionite theory alluded to, near the end of the last chapter.

5582 1 Cor. xv. 12.

5583 See his treatise, *De Resur. Carnis*, chap. i. (Oehler).

5584 An allusion to the deaths of martyrs.

5585 Compendio.

5586 Defendi.

5587 Animam.

able only of that which has fallen down; because it is by rising *again*, in consequence of its having fallen down, that it is said to have *re-risen*.⁵⁵⁸⁸ For the syllable RE always implies iteration (or happening *again*). We say, therefore, that the body falls to the ground by death, as indeed facts themselves show, in accordance with the law of God. For to the body it was said, (“Till thou return to the ground, for out of it wast thou taken; for) dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”⁵⁵⁸⁹ That, therefore, which came from the ground shall return to the ground. Now that falls down which returns to the ground; and that rises again which falls down. “Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection.”⁵⁵⁹⁰ Here in the word *man*, who consists of bodily substance, as we have often shown already, is presented to me the body of Christ. But if we are all so made alive in Christ, as we die in Adam, it follows of necessity that we are made alive in Christ as a bodily substance, since we died in Adam as a bodily substance. The similarity, indeed, is not complete, unless our revival⁵⁵⁹¹ in Christ concur in identity of substance with our mortality⁵⁵⁹² in Adam. But at this point⁵⁵⁹³ (the apostle) has made a parenthetical statement⁵⁵⁹⁴ concerning Christ, which, bearing as it does on our present discussion, must not pass unnoticed. For the resurrection of the body will receive all the better proof, in proportion as I shall succeed in showing that Christ belongs to that God who is believed to have provided this resurrection of the flesh in His dispensation. When he says, “For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet,”⁵⁵⁹⁵ we can see at once⁵⁵⁹⁶ from this statement that he speaks of a God of vengeance, and therefore of Him who made the following promise to Christ: “Sit Thou at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool. The rod of Thy strength shall the Lord send forth from Sion, and He shall rule along with Thee in the midst of Thine enemies.”⁵⁵⁹⁷ It is necessary for me to lay claim to those Scriptures which the Jews endeavour to deprive us of, and to show that they sustain my view. Now they say that this Psalm⁵⁵⁹⁸ was a chant in honour of Hezeki-



5588 The reader will readily see how the English fails to complete the illustration with the ease of the Latin, “*surgere*,” “*iterum surgere*,” “*resurgere*.”

5589 [Gen. iii. 19](#). [“Was not said unto the Soul”—says our own Longfellow, in corresponding words.]

5590 [1 Cor. xv. 21](#).

5591 *Vivificatio*.

5592 *Mortificatio*.

5593 *Adhuc*.

5594 *Interposuit aliquid*.

5595 [1 Cor. xv. 25, 27](#).

5596 *Jam quidem*.

5597 [Ps. cx. 1, 2, and viii. 6](#).

5598 [Ps. cx.](#)

ah,⁵⁵⁹⁹ because “he went up to the house of the Lord,”⁵⁶⁰⁰ and God turned back and removed his enemies. Therefore, (as they further hold,) those other words, “Before the morning star did I beget thee from the womb,”⁵⁶⁰¹ are applicable to Hezekiah, and to the birth of Hezekiah. We on our side⁵⁶⁰² have published Gospels (to the credibility of which we have to thank⁵⁶⁰³ them⁵⁶⁰⁴ for having given some confirmation, indeed, already in so great a subject⁵⁶⁰⁵); and these declare that the Lord was born *at night*, that so it might be “before the morning star,” as is evident both from the star especially, and from the testimony of the angel, who at night announced to the shepherds that Christ had at that moment been born,⁵⁶⁰⁶ and again from the place of the birth, for it is towards night that persons arrive at the (eastern) “inn.” Perhaps, too, there was a mystic purpose in Christ’s being born at

5599 In Ezechiam cecinisse.

5600 *2 Kings xix. 14*; but the words are, “quia is sederit ad dexteram templi,” a sentence which occurs neither in the LXX. nor the original.

5601 Tertullian, as usual, argues from the Septuagint, which in the latter clause of *Ps. cx. 3* has ἐκ γαστρὸς πρὸ ἑωσφόρου ἐγέννησά σε; and so the *Vulgate* version has it. This Psalm has been variously applied by the Jews. Raschi (or Rabbi Sol. Jarchi) thinks it is most suitable to *Abraham*, and possibly to *David*, in which latter view D. Kimchi agrees with him. Others find in *Solomon* the best application; but more frequently is *Hezekiah* thought to be the subject of the Psalm, as Tertullian observes. Justin Martyr (in *Dial. cum Tryph.*) also notices this application of the Psalm. But Tertullian in the next sentence appears to recognize the sounder opinion of the *older* Jews, who saw in this *Ps. cx.* a prediction of Messiah. This opinion occurs in the Jerusalem Talmud, in the tract *Berachoth*, 5. Amongst the *more recent* Jews who also hold the sounder view, may be mentioned Rabbi Saadias Gaon, on *Dan. vii. 13*, and R. Moses Hadarsan [singularly enough quoted by Raschi in another part of his commentary (*Gen. xxxv. 8*)], with others who are mentioned by Wetstein, *On the New Testament, Matt. xxii. 44*. *Modern* Jews, such as Moses Mendelsohn, reject the Messianic sense; and they are followed by the commentators of the Rationalist school amongst ourselves and in Germany. J. Olshausen, after Hitzig, comes down in his interpretation of the Psalm as late as the Maccabees, and sees a suitable accomplishment of its words in the honours heaped upon *Jonathan* by Alexander son of Antiochus Epiphanes (see *1 Macc. x. 20*). For the refutation of so inadequate a commentary, the reader is referred to Delitzch on *Ps. cx.* The variations of opinion, however, in this school, are as remarkable as the fluctuations of the Jewish writers. The latest work on the Psalms which has appeared amongst us (*Psalms, chronologically arranged*, by four Friends), after Ewald, places the *accomplishment* of *Ps. cx.* in what may be allowed to have been its *occasion*—David’s victories over the neighboring heathen.

5602 Nos.

5603 Debemus.

5604 Istos: that is, the Jews (Rigalt.).

5605 Utique jam in tanto opere.

5606 Natum esse quum maxime.

night, destined, as He was, to be the light of the truth amidst the dark shadows of ignorance. Nor, again, would God have said, "I have begotten Thee," except to His true Son. For although He says of all the people (Israel), "I have begotten⁵⁶⁰⁷ children,"⁵⁶⁰⁸ yet He added not "from the womb." Now, why should He have added so superfluously this phrase "from the womb" (as if there could be any doubt about any one's having been born from the womb), unless the Holy Ghost had wished the words to be with especial care⁵⁶⁰⁹ understood of Christ? "I have begotten Thee from the womb," that is to say, *from a womb only*, without a man's seed, making it a condition of a fleshly body⁵⁶¹⁰ that it should come out of a womb. What is here added (in the Psalm), "Thou art a priest for ever,"⁵⁶¹¹ relates to (Christ) Himself. Hezekiah was no priest; and even if he had been one, he would not have been a priest *for ever*. "After the order," says He, "of Melchizedek." Now what had Hezekiah to do with Melchizedek, the priest of the most high God, and him uncircumcised too, who blessed the circumcised Abraham, after receiving from him the offering of tithes? To Christ, however, "the order of Melchizedek" will be very suitable; for Christ is the proper and legitimate High Priest of God. He is the Pontiff of the priesthood of the uncircumcision, constituted such, even then, for the Gentiles, by whom He was to be more fully received, although at His last coming He will favour with His acceptance and blessing the circumcision also, even the race of Abraham, which by and by is to acknowledge Him. Well, then, there is also another Psalm, which begins with these words: "Give Thy judgments, O God, to the King," that is, to Christ who was to come as King, "and Thy righteousness unto the King's son,"⁵⁶¹² that is, to Christ's people; for His sons are they who are born again in Him. But it will here be said that this Psalm has reference to Solomon. However, will not those portions of the Psalm which apply to Christ alone, be enough to teach us that all the rest, too, relates to Christ, and not to Solomon? "He shall come down," says He, "like rain upon a fleece,"⁵⁶¹³ and like dropping showers upon the earth,"⁵⁶¹⁴ describing His descent from heaven to the flesh as gentle and unobserved.⁵⁶¹⁵ Solomon, however, if he had indeed any descent at all, came

5607 Generavi: Sept. ἐγέννησα.

5608 Isa. i. 2.

5609 Curiosius.

5610 Deputans carni: a note against *Docetism*.

5611 Ps. cx. 4.

5612 Ps. lxxii. 1.

5613 Super vellus: so Sept. ἐπὶ πόκον.

5614 Ps. lxxii. 6.

5615 Similarly the Rabbis Saadiah Gaon and Hadarsan, above mentioned in our note, beautifully applied to *Messiah's* placid birth, "without a human father," the figures of Ps. cx. 3, "womb of the morning," "dew of thy birth."

not down like a shower, because he descended not from heaven. But I will set before you more literal points.⁵⁶¹⁶ “He shall have dominion,” says the Psalmist, “from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.”⁵⁶¹⁷ To Christ alone was this given; whilst Solomon reigned over only the moderately-sized kingdom of Judah. “Yea, all kings shall fall down before Him.” Whom, indeed, shall they all thus worship, except Christ? “All nations shall serve Him.”⁵⁶¹⁸ To whom shall all thus do homage, but Christ? “His name shall endure for ever.” Whose name has this eternity of fame, but Christ’s? “Longer than the sun shall His name remain,” for longer than the sun shall be the Word of God, even Christ. “And in Him shall all nations be blessed.”⁵⁶¹⁹ In Solomon was *no* nation blessed; in Christ *every* nation. And what if the Psalm proves Him to be even God? “They shall call Him *blessed*.”⁵⁶²⁰ (On what ground?) Because *blessed* is the Lord God of Israel, who only doeth wonderful things.⁵⁶²¹ “*Blessed* also is His glorious name, and with His glory shall all the earth be filled.”⁵⁶²² On the contrary, Solomon (as I make bold to affirm) lost even the glory which he had from God, seduced by his love of women even into idolatry. And thus, the statement which occurs in about the middle of this Psalm, “His enemies shall lick the dust”⁵⁶²³ (of course, as having been, (to use the apostle’s phrase,) “put under His feet”⁵⁶²⁴), will bear upon the very object which I had in view, when I both introduced the Psalm, and insisted on my opinion of its sense,—namely, that I might demonstrate both the glory of His kingdom and the subjection of His enemies in pursuance of the Creator’s own plans, with the view of laying down⁵⁶²⁵ this conclusion, that none but He can be believed to be *the Christ* of the Creator.

5616 Simpliciora.

5617 Ps. lxx. 8.

5618 Ps. lxx. 11.

5619 Ps. lxx. 17.

5620 Ps. lxx. 17.

5621 Ps. lxx. 18.

5622 Ps. lxx. 19.

5623 Ps. lxx. 9.

5624 1 Cor. xv. 25, 27.

5625 Consecuturus.

Chapter X.—Doctrine of the Resurrection of the Body, Continued. How are the Dead Raised? and with What Body Do They Come? These Questions Answered in Such a Sense as to Maintain the Truth of the Raised Body, Against Marcion. Christ as the Second Adam Connected with the Creator of the First Man. Let Us Bear the Image of the Heavenly. The Triumph Over Death in Accordance with the Prophets. Hosea and St. Paul Compared.

Let us now return to the resurrection, to the defence of which against heretics of all sorts we have given indeed sufficient attention in another work of ours.⁵⁶²⁶ But we will not be wanting (in some defence of the doctrine) even here, in consideration of such persons as are ignorant of that little treatise. “What,” asks he, “shall they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not?”⁵⁶²⁷ Now, never mind⁵⁶²⁸ that practice, (whatever it may have been.) The *Februarian* lustrations⁵⁶²⁹ will perhaps⁵⁶³⁰ answer him (quite as well), by praying for the dead.⁵⁶³¹ Do not then suppose that the apostle here indicates some new *god as the* author and advocate of this (baptism for the dead. His only aim in alluding to it was) that he might all the more firmly insist upon the resurrection of the body, in proportion as they who were vainly baptized for the dead resorted to the practice from their belief of *such* a resurrection. We have the apostle in another passage defining “but one baptism.”⁵⁶³² To be “baptized for the dead” therefore means, in fact, to be baptized for the body;⁵⁶³³ for, as

5626 He refers to his *De Resurrect. Carnis*. See chap. xlviii.

5627 1 Cor. xv. 29.

5628 Viderit.

5629 *Kalendæ Februariæ*. The great expiation or lustration, celebrated at Rome in the month which received its name from the festival, is described by Ovid, *Fasti*, book ii., lines 19–28, and 267–452, in which latter passage the same feast is called *Lupercalia*. Of course as the rites were held on the 15th of the month, the word *kalendæ* here has not its more usual meaning (Paley’s edition of the *Fasti*, pp. 52–76). Oehler refers also to Macrobius, *Saturn.* i. 13; Cicero, *De Legibus*, ii. 21; Plutarch, *Numa*, p. 132. He well remarks (note *in loc.*), that Tertullian, by intimating that the heathen rites of the *Februa* will afford quite as satisfactory an answer to the apostle’s question, as the Christian superstition alluded to, not only means no authorization of the said superstition for himself, but expresses his belief that St. Paul’s only object was to gather some evidence for the great doctrine of the resurrection from the faith which underlay the practice alluded to. In this respect, however, the heathen festival would afford a much less pointed illustration; for though it was indeed a lustration for the dead, *περὶ νεκρῶν*, and had for its object their happiness and welfare, it went no further than a vague notion of an indefinite immortality, and it touched not the recovery of the body. There is therefore force in Tertullian’s *si forte*.

5630 *Si forte*.

5631 τῷ εὐχεσθαι ὑπὲρ τῶν νεκρῶν (Rigalt.).

5632 *Eph.* iv. 5.

5633 *Pro corporibus*.

we have shown, it is the *body* which becomes *dead*. What, then, shall they do who are baptized for the body,⁵⁶³⁴ if the body⁵⁶³⁵ rises not again? We stand, then, on firm ground (when we say) that⁵⁶³⁶ the next question which the apostle has discussed equally relates to the body. But “some man will say, ‘How are the dead raised up? With what body do they come?’”⁵⁶³⁷ Having established the doctrine of the resurrection which was denied, it was natural⁵⁶³⁸ to discuss what would be the sort of body (in the resurrection), of which no one had an idea. On this point we have other opponents with whom to engage. For Marcion does not in any wise admit the resurrection of the flesh, and it is only the salvation of the soul which he promises; consequently the question which he raises is not concerning *the sort of body*, but the very *substance* thereof. Notwithstanding,⁵⁶³⁹ he is most plainly refuted even from what the apostle advances respecting the quality of the body, in answer to those who ask, “How are the dead raised up? with what body do they come?” For as he treated of the sort of *body*, he of course *ipso facto* proclaimed in the argument that it was a *body* which would rise again. Indeed, since he proposes as his examples “wheat grain, or some other grain, to which God giveth a body, such as it hath pleased Him;”⁵⁶⁴⁰ since also he says, that “to every seed is its own body;”⁵⁶⁴¹ that, consequently,⁵⁶⁴² “there is one kind of flesh of men, whilst there is another of beasts, and (another) of birds; that there are also celestial bodies and bodies terrestrial; and that there is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars”⁵⁶⁴³—does he not therefore intimate that there is to be⁵⁶⁴⁴ a resurrection of the flesh or body, which he illustrates by fleshly and corporeal samples? Does he not also guarantee that the resurrection shall be accomplished by that God from whom proceed all the (creatures which have served him for) examples? “So also,” says he, “is the resurrection of the dead.”⁵⁶⁴⁵ How? Just as the grain, which is sown a body, springs up a body. This sowing of the body he called the dissolving thereof in the ground, “because it is sown in corruption,” (but “is raised) to honour and power.”⁵⁶⁴⁶ Now, just as



5634 Eph. iv. 5.

5635 Corpora.

5636 Ut, with the subjunctive verb *induxerit*.

5637 1 Cor. xv. 35.

5638 Consequens erat.

5639 Porro.

5640 1 Cor. xv. 37, 38.

5641 1 Cor. xv. 38.

5642 Ut.

5643 1 Cor. xv. 39–41.

5644 Portendit.

5645 1 Cor. xv. 42.

5646 1 Cor. xv. 42, 43.

in the case of the grain, so here: to Him will belong the work in the revival of the body, who ordered the process in the dissolution thereof. If, however, you remove the body from the resurrection which you submitted to the dissolution, what becomes of the diversity in the issue? Likewise, “although it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.”⁵⁶⁴⁷ Now, although the natural principle of life⁵⁶⁴⁸ and the spirit have each a body proper to itself, so that the “natural body” may fairly be taken⁵⁶⁴⁹ to signify the soul,⁵⁶⁵⁰ and “the spiritual body” the spirit, yet that is no reason for supposing⁵⁶⁵¹ the apostle to say that the soul is to become spirit in the resurrection, but that *the body* (which, as being born along with the soul, and as retaining its life by means of the soul,⁵⁶⁵² admits of being called animal (or *natural*⁵⁶⁵³) *will become spiritual*, since it rises through the Spirit to an eternal life. In short, since it is not the soul, but the flesh which is “sown in corruption,” when it turns to decay in the ground, it follows that (after such dissolution) the soul is no longer the natural body, but the flesh, which was the natural body, (is the subject of the future change), forasmuch as of a natural body it is made a spiritual body, as he says further down, “That was not first which is spiritual.”⁵⁶⁵⁴ For to this effect he just before remarked of Christ Himself: “The first man Adam was made a living soul, the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”⁵⁶⁵⁵ Our heretic, however, in the excess of his folly, being unwilling that the statement should remain in this shape, altered “last Adam” into “last Lord;”⁵⁶⁵⁶ because he feared, of course, that if he allowed the Lord to be the last (or second) Adam, we should contend that Christ, being the second Adam, must needs belong to that God who owned also the first Adam. But the falsification is transparent. For why is there a first Adam, unless it be that there is also a second Adam? For things are not classed together unless they be severally alike, and have an identity of either name, or substance, or origin.⁵⁶⁵⁷ Now, although among things which are even individually diverse, one must be first and another last, yet they must have

5647 1 Cor. xv. 44.

5648 Anima: we will call it *soul* in the context.

5649 Possit videri.

5650 Animam.

5651 Non ideo.

5652 Animam.

5653 Animale. The terseness of his argument, by his use of the same radical terms *Anima* and *Animale*, is lost in the English. [See Cap. 15 *infra*. Also, Kaye p. 180. St. Augustine seems to tolerate our author’s views of a corporal spirit in his treatise *de Hæresibus*.]

5654 1 Cor. xv. 46.

5655 1 Cor. xv. 45.

5656 ὁ ἔσχατος Ἀδάμ into ὁ ἔσχατος Κύριος.

5657 Vel auctoris.

one author. If, however, the author be a different one, he himself indeed may be called the last. But the thing which he introduces is the first, and that only can be the last, which is like this first in nature.⁵⁶⁵⁸ It is, however, not like the first in nature, when it is not the work of the same author. In like manner (the heretic) will be refuted also with the word “*man*: ” “The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.”⁵⁶⁵⁹ Now, since the first was a *man*, how can there be a second, unless he is a *man* also? Or, else, if the second is “Lord,” was the first “Lord” also?⁵⁶⁶⁰ It is, however, quite enough for me, that in his Gospel he admits the Son of man to be both Christ and Man; so that he will not be able to deny Him (in this passage), in the “Adam” and the “man” (of the apostle). What follows will also be too much for him. For when the apostle says, “As is the earthy,” that is, *man*, “such also are they that are earthy”—men again, of course; “therefore as is the heavenly,” meaning the Man, from heaven, “such are the men also that are heavenly.”⁵⁶⁶¹ For he could not possibly have opposed to earthly *men* any heavenly beings that were not *men* also; his object being the more accurately to distinguish their state and expectation by using this name in common for them both. For in respect of their present state and their future expectation he calls men earthly and heavenly, still reserving their parity of name, according as they are reckoned (as to their ultimate condition⁵⁶⁶²) in Adam or in Christ. Therefore, when exhorting them to cherish the hope of heaven, he says: “As we have borne the image of the earthy, so let us also bear the image of the heavenly,”⁵⁶⁶³—language which relates not to any condition of resurrection life, but to the rule of the present time. He says, *Let us bear*, as a precept; not *We shall bear*, in the sense of a promise—wishing us to walk even as he himself was walking, and to put off the likeness of the earthly, that is, of the old man, in the works of the flesh. For what are this next words? “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.”⁵⁶⁶⁴ He means the works of the flesh and blood,

5658 Par.

5659 1 Cor. xv. 47.

5660 Marcion seems to have changed *man* into *Lord*, or rather to have omitted the ἄνθρωπος of the second clause, letting the verse run thus: ὁ πρῶτος ἄνθρωπος ἐκ γῆς χοϊκός, ὁ δεύτερος Κύριος ἐξ οὐρανοῦ. Anything to cut off all connection with the Creator.

5661 The οἱ ἐπουράνιοι, the “*de caelo homines*,” of this ver. 48 are Christ’s risen people; comp. Phil. iii. 20, 21 (Alford).

5662 Secundum exitum.

5663 1 Cor. xv. 49. T. argues from the reading φορέσωμεν (instead of φορέσομεν), which indeed was read by many of the fathers, and (what is still more important) is found in the *Codex Sinaiticus*. We add the critical note of Dean Alford on this reading: “ACDFKL rel latt copt goth, Theodotus, Basil, Cæsarius, Cyril, Macarius, Methodius (who prefixes ἔνα), Chrysostom, Epiphanius, Ps. Athanasius, Damascene, Irenæus (int), Tertullian, Cyprian, Hilary, Jerome.” Alford retains the usual φορέσομεν, on the strength chiefly of the *Codex Vaticanus*.

5664 1 Cor. xv. 50.

which, in his Epistle to the Galatians, deprive men of the kingdom of God.⁵⁶⁶⁵ In other passages also he is accustomed to put the natural condition instead of the works that are done therein, as when he says, that “they who are in the flesh cannot please God.”⁵⁶⁶⁶ Now, when shall we be able to please God except whilst we are in this flesh? There is, I imagine, no other time wherein a man can work. If, however, whilst we are even naturally living in the flesh, we yet eschew the deeds of the flesh, then we shall not be in the flesh; since, although we are not absent from the substance of the flesh, we are notwithstanding strangers to the sin thereof. Now, since in the word *flesh* we are enjoined to put off, not the substance, but the works of the flesh, therefore in the use of the same word the kingdom of God is denied to the works of the flesh, not to the substance thereof. For not that is condemned in which evil is done, but only the evil which is done in it. To administer poison is a crime, but the cup in which it is given is not guilty. So the body is the vessel of the works of the flesh, whilst the soul which is within it mixes the poison of a wicked act. How then is it, that the soul, which is the real author of the works of the flesh, shall attain to⁵⁶⁶⁷ the kingdom of God, after the deeds done in the body have been atoned for, whilst the body, which was nothing but (the soul’s) ministering agent, must remain in condemnation? Is the cup to be punished, but the poisoner to escape? Not that we indeed claim the kingdom of God for the flesh: all we do is, to assert a resurrection for the substance thereof, as the gate of the kingdom through which it is entered. But the resurrection is one thing, and the kingdom is another. The resurrection is first, and afterwards the kingdom. We say, therefore, that the flesh rises again, but that when changed it obtains the kingdom. “For the dead shall be raised incorruptible,” even those who had been corruptible when their bodies fell into decay; “and we shall be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.”⁵⁶⁶⁸ For this corruptible”—and as he spake, the apostle seemingly pointed to his own flesh—“must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality,”⁵⁶⁶⁹ in order, indeed, that it may be rendered a fit substance for the kingdom of God. “For we shall be like the angels.”⁵⁶⁷⁰ This will be the perfect change of our flesh—only after its resurrection.⁵⁶⁷¹ Now if, on the contrary,⁵⁶⁷² there is to be no flesh, how then shall it put on incorruption and immortality? Having then become something else by its change, it will obtain the kingdom of God, no longer the (old) flesh and blood,



5665 Gal. v. 19–21.

5666 Rom. viii. 8.

5667 Merebitur.

5668 1 Cor. xv. 52.

5669 1 Cor. xv. 53.

5670 Matt. xxii. 30 and Luke xx. 36.

5671 Sed resuscitatae.

5672 Aut si.

but the body which God shall have given it. Rightly then does the apostle declare, “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God;”⁵⁶⁷³ for this (honour) does he ascribe to the changed condition⁵⁶⁷⁴ which ensues on the resurrection. Since, therefore, shall then be accomplished the word which was written by the Creator, “O death, where is thy victory”—or thy struggle?⁵⁶⁷⁵ “O death, where is thy sting?”⁵⁶⁷⁶—written, I say, by the Creator, for He wrote them by His prophet⁵⁶⁷⁷—to Him will belong the gift, that is, the kingdom, who proclaimed the word which is to be accomplished in the kingdom. And to none other God does he tell us that “thanks” are due, for having enabled us to achieve “the victory” even over death, than to Him from whom he received the very expression⁵⁶⁷⁸ of the exulting and triumphant challenge to the mortal foe.

5673 1 Cor. xv. 50.

5674 Demutationi.

5675 Suggested by the *ισχυσας* of Sept. in Isa. xxv. 8.

5676 1 Cor. xv. 55.

5677 Isa. xxv. 8 and (especially) Hos. xiii. 14.

5678 The Septuagint version of the passage in Hosea is, ποῦ ἡ δίκη σου, θάνατε; ποῦ τὸ κέντρον σου, ἄδη, which is very like the form of the apostrophe in 1 Cor. xv. 55.

Chapter XI.—The Second Epistle to the Corinthians. The Creator the Father of Mercies. Shown to Be Such in the Old Testament, and Also in Christ. The Newness of the New Testament. The Veil of Obdurate Blindness Upon Israel, Not Reprehensible on Marcion's Principles. The Jews Guilty in Rejecting the Christ of the Creator. Satan, the God of This World. The Treasure in Earthen Vessels Explained Against Marcion. The Creator's Relation to These Vessels, I.e. Our Bodies.

If, owing to the fault of human error, the word *God* has become a common name (since in the world there are said and believed to be “gods many”⁵⁶⁷⁹), yet “the blessed God,” (who is “the Father) of our Lord Jesus Christ,”⁵⁶⁸⁰ will be understood to be no other God than the Creator, who both blessed all things (that He had made), as you find in Genesis,⁵⁶⁸¹ and is Himself “blessed by all things,” as Daniel tells us.⁵⁶⁸² Now, if the title of *Father* may be claimed for (Marcion's) sterile god, how much more for the Creator? To none other than Him is it suitable, who is also “the Father of mercies,”⁵⁶⁸³ and (in the prophets) has been described as “full of compassion, and gracious, and plenteous in mercy.”⁵⁶⁸⁴ In Jonah you find the signal act of His mercy, which He showed to the praying Ninevites.⁵⁶⁸⁵ How inflexible was He at the tears of Hezekiah!⁵⁶⁸⁶ How ready to forgive Ahab, the husband of Jezebel, the blood of Naboth, when he deprecated His anger.⁵⁶⁸⁷ How prompt in pardoning David on his confession of his sin⁵⁶⁸⁸—preferring, indeed, the sinner's repentance to his death, of course because of His gracious attribute of mercy.⁵⁶⁸⁹ Now, if Marcion's god has exhibited or proclaimed any such thing as this, I will allow him to be “the Father of mercies.” Since, however, he ascribes to him this title only from the time he has been revealed, as if he were the father of mercies from the time only when he began to liberate the human race, then we on our side, too,⁵⁶⁹⁰ adopt the same precise date of his alleged revelation; but it is that we

5679 1 Cor. viii. 5.

5680 2 Cor. i. 3.

5681 Gen. i. 22.

5682 Dan. ii. 19, 20; iii. 28, 29; iv. 34, 37.

5683 2 Cor. i. 3.

5684 Ps. lxxxvi. 15; cxii. 4; cxlv. 8; Jonah iv. 2.

5685 Jonah iii. 8.

5686 2 Kings xx. 3, 5.

5687 1 Kings xxi. 27, 29.

5688 2 Sam. xii. 13.

5689 Ezek. xxxiii. 11.

5690 Atquin et nos.

may deny him! It is then not competent to him to ascribe any quality to his god, whom indeed he only promulged by the fact of such an ascription; for only if it were previously evident that his god had an existence, could he be permitted to ascribe an attribute to him. The ascribed attribute is only an accident; but accidents⁵⁶⁹¹ are preceded by the statement of the thing itself of which they are predicated, especially when another claims the attribute which is ascribed to him who has not been previously shown to exist. Our denial of his existence will be all the more peremptory, because of the fact that the attribute which is alleged in proof of it belongs to that God who has been already revealed. Therefore “the New Testament” will appertain to none other than Him who promised it—if not “its letter, yet its spirit;”⁵⁶⁹² and herein will lie its *newness*. Indeed, He who had engraved its letter in stones is the same as He who had said of its spirit, “I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh.”⁵⁶⁹³ Even if “the letter killeth, yet the Spirit giveth life;”⁵⁶⁹⁴ and both belong to Him who says: “I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal.”⁵⁶⁹⁵ We have already made good the Creator’s claim to this twofold character of judgment and goodness⁵⁶⁹⁶—“killing in the letter” through the law, and “quicken in the Spirit” through the Gospel. Now these attributes, however different they be, cannot possibly make two gods; for they have already (in the prevenient dispensation of the Old Testament) been found to meet in One.⁵⁶⁹⁷ He alludes to Moses’ veil, covered with which “his face could not be stedfastly seen by the children of Israel.”⁵⁶⁹⁸ Since he did this to maintain the superiority of the glory of the New Testament, which is permanent in its glory, over that of the Old, “which was to be done away,”⁵⁶⁹⁹ this fact gives support to my belief which exalts the Gospel above the law and you must look well to it that it does not even more than this. For only *there* is superiority possible where was previously the thing over which superiority can be affirmed. But then he says, “But their minds were blinded”⁵⁷⁰⁰—of the world; certainly not the Creator’s mind, but the minds of the people which are in the world.⁵⁷⁰¹ Of Israel he says, Even unto this day the same veil is upon their



5691 The *Contingent* qualities in logic.

5692 2 Cor. iii. 6.

5693 Joel ii. 28.

5694 2 Cor. iii. 6.

5695 Deut. xxxii. 39.

5696 See above in book ii. [cap. xi. p. 306.]

5697 Apud unum recenseri prævenerunt.

5698 2 Cor. iii. 7, 13.

5699 2 Cor. iii. 7, 8.

5700 Obtusi: “blunted,” 2 Cor. iii. 14.

5701 He seems to have read the clause as applying to the *world*, but St. Paul certainly refers only to the obdurate Jews. The text is: “Sed obtusi sunt sensus mundi.

heart;”⁵⁷⁰² showing that the veil which was on the face of Moses was a figure of the veil which is on the heart of the nation still; because even now Moses is not seen by them in heart, just as he was not then seen by them in eye. But what concern has Paul with the veil which still obscures Moses from their view, if the Christ of the Creator, whom Moses predicted, is not yet come? How are the hearts of the Jews represented as still covered and veiled, if the predictions of Moses relating to Christ, in whom it was their duty to believe through him, are as yet unfulfilled? What had the apostle of a strange Christ to complain of, if the Jews failed in understanding the mysterious announcements of their own God, unless the veil which was upon their hearts had reference to that blindness which concealed from their eyes the Christ of Moses? Then, again, the words which follow, But when it shall turn to the Lord, the evil shall be taken away,⁵⁷⁰³ properly refer to the Jew, over whose gaze Moses’ veil is spread, to the effect that, when he is turned to the faith of Christ, he will understand how Moses spoke of Christ. But how shall the veil of the Creator be taken away by the Christ of another god, whose mysteries the Creator could not possibly have veiled—unknown mysteries, as they were of an unknown god? So he says that “we now with open face” (meaning *the candour* of the heart, which in the Jews had been covered with a veil), “beholding Christ, are changed into the same image, from that glory” (wherewith Moses was transfigured as by the glory of the Lord) “to another glory.”⁵⁷⁰⁴ By thus setting forth the glory which illumined the person of Moses from his interview with God, and the veil which concealed the same from the infirmity of the people, and by superinducing thereupon the revelation and the glory of the Spirit in the person of Christ—“even as,” to use his words, “by the Spirit of the Lord”⁵⁷⁰⁵—he testifies that the whole Mosaic system⁵⁷⁰⁶ was a figure of Christ, of whom the Jews indeed were ignorant, but who is known to us Christians. We are quite aware that some passages are open to ambiguity, from the way in which they are read, or else from their punctuation, when there is room for these two causes of ambiguity. The latter method has been adopted by Marcion, by reading the passage which follows, “in whom the God of this world,”⁵⁷⁰⁷ as if it described the Creator as the God of this world, in order that he may, by these words, imply that there is another God for the other world. We, however, say that the passage ought to be punctuated with a comma after

5702 2 Cor. iii. 15.

5703 2 Cor. iii. 16.

5704 2 Cor. iii. 18.

5705 2 Cor. iii. 18, but T.’s reading is “tanquam a domino spirituum” (“even as by the Lord of the Spirits,” probably the sevenfold Spirit.). The original is, καθάπερ ἀπὸ Κυρίου Πνεύματος, “by the Lord the Spirit.”

5706 Moysi ordinem totum.

5707 2 Cor. iv. 4.

God, to this effect: “In whom God hath blinded the eyes of the unbelievers of this world.”⁵⁷⁰⁸ “In whom” means the Jewish unbelievers, from some of whom the gospel is still hidden under Moses’ veil. Now it is these whom God had threatened for “loving Him indeed with the lip, whilst their heart was far from Him,”⁵⁷⁰⁹ in these angry words: “Ye shall hear with your ears, and not understand; and see with your eyes, but not perceive;”⁵⁷¹⁰ and, “If ye will not believe, ye shall not understand;”⁵⁷¹¹ and again, “I will take away the wisdom of their wise men, and bring to nought⁵⁷¹² the understanding of their prudent ones.” But these words, of course, He did not pronounce against them for concealing the gospel of the unknown God. At any rate, if there is a God of this world,⁵⁷¹³ He blinds the heart of the unbelievers of this world, because they have not of their own accord recognised His Christ, who ought to be understood from His Scriptures.⁵⁷¹⁴ Content with my advantage, I can willingly refrain from noticing to any greater length⁵⁷¹⁵ this point of ambiguous punctuation, so as not to give my adversary any advantage,⁵⁷¹⁶ indeed, I might have wholly omitted the discussion. A simpler answer I shall find ready to hand in interpreting “the god of this world” of the devil, who once said, as the prophet describes him: “I will be like the Most High; I will exalt my throne in the clouds.”⁵⁷¹⁷ The whole superstition, indeed, of this world has got into his hands,⁵⁷¹⁸ so that he blinds effectually the hearts of unbelievers, and of none more than the apostate Marcion’s. Now he did not observe how much this clause of the sentence made against him: “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness,



5708 He would stop off the phrase τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου from ὁ Θεός, and remove it to the end of the sentence as a qualification of τῶν ἀπίστων. He adds another interpretation just afterwards, which, we need not say, is both more consistent with the sense of the passage and with the *consensus* of Christian writers of all ages, although “it is historically curious” (as Dean Alford has remarked) “that Irenæus [*Hæres.* iv. 48, Origen, Tertullian (v. 11, *contra Marcion*)], Chrysostom, Cæcumenius, Theodoret, Theophylact, all repudiate, in their zeal against the Manichæans, the grammatical rendering, and take τῶν ἀπίστων τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου together” (Greek Testament, *in loc.*). [I have corrected Alford’s reference to Tertullian which he makes B. iv. 11.]

5709 Isa. xxix. 13.

5710 Isa. vi. 10 (only adapted).

5711 Isa. vii. 9, Sept.

5712 Sept. κρύψω, “will hide.”

5713 Said concessively, in reference to M.’s position above mentioned.

5714 Marcion’s “God of this world” being the God of the Old Testament.

5715 Hactenus: pro *non amplius* (Oehler) tractasse.

5716 “A fuller criticism on this slight matter might give his opponent the advantage, as apparently betraying a penury of weightier and more certain arguments” (Oehler).

5717 Isa. xiv. 14.

5718 Mancipata est illi.

hath shined in our hearts, to (give) the light of the knowledge (of His glory) in the face of (Jesus) Christ.”⁵⁷¹⁹ Now who was it that said; “Let there be light?”⁵⁷²⁰ And who was it that said to Christ concerning giving light to the world: “I have set Thee as a light to the Gentiles”⁵⁷²¹—to them, that is, “who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death?”⁵⁷²² (None else, surely, than He), to whom the Spirit in the Psalm answers, in His foresight of the future, saying, “The light of Thy countenance, O Lord, hath been displayed upon us.”⁵⁷²³ Now the countenance (or person⁵⁷²⁴) of the Lord here is Christ. Wherefore the apostle said above: “Christ, who is the image of God.”⁵⁷²⁵ Since Christ, then, is the person of the Creator, who said, “Let there be light,” it follows that Christ and the apostles, and the gospel, and the veil, and Moses—nay, the whole of the dispensations—belong to the God who is the Creator of this world, according to the testimony of the clause (above adverted to), and certainly not to him who never said, “Let there be light.” I here pass over discussion about another epistle, which we hold to have been written to the Ephesians, but the heretics to the Laodiceans. In it he tells⁵⁷²⁶ them to remember, that at the time when they were Gentiles they were without Christ, aliens from (the commonwealth of) Israel, without intercourse, without the covenants and any hope of promise, nay, without God, even in his own world,⁵⁷²⁷ as the Creator thereof. Since therefore he said, that the Gentiles were without God, whilst their god was the devil, not the Creator, it is clear that he must be understood to be the lord of this world, whom the Gentiles received as their god—not the Creator, of whom they were in ignorance. But how does it happen, that “the treasure which we have in these earthen vessels of ours”⁵⁷²⁸ should not be regarded as belonging to the God who owns the vessels? Now since God’s glory is, that so great a treasure is contained in earthen vessels, and since these earthen vessels are of the Creator’s make, it follows that the glory is the Creator’s; nay, since these vessels of His smack so much of the excellency of the power of God, that power itself must be His also! Indeed, all these things have been consigned to the said “earthen vessels” for the very purpose that His excellence might be manifested forth. Henceforth, then, the rival god will have no claim to the glory, and consequently none to the power. Rather, dishonour and

5719 [2 Cor. iv. 6.](#)

5720 [Gen. i. 3.](#)

5721 [Isa. xlix. 6](#) (Sept. quoted in [Acts xiii. 47](#)).

5722 [Isa. ix. 2](#) and [Matt. iv. 16.](#)

5723 [Ps. iv. 7](#) (Sept.).

5724 Persona: the πρόσωπον of the Septuagint.

5725 [2 Cor. iv. 4.](#)

5726 Ait.

5727 [Eph. ii. 12.](#)

5728 [2 Cor. iv. 7.](#)

weakness will accrue to him, because the earthen vessels with which he had nothing to do have received all the excellency! Well, then, if it be in these very earthen vessels that he tells us we have to endure so great sufferings,⁵⁷²⁹ in which we bear about with us the very dying of God,⁵⁷³⁰ (Marcion's) god is really ungrateful and unjust, if he does not mean to restore this same substance of ours at the resurrection, wherein so much has been endured in loyalty to him, in which Christ's very death is borne about, wherein too the excellency of his power is treasured.⁵⁷³¹ For he gives prominence to the statement, "That the life also of Christ may be manifested in our body,"⁵⁷³² as a contrast to the preceding, that His death is borne about in our body. Now of *what life of Christ* does he here speak? Of that which we are now living? Then how is it, that in the words which follow he exhorts us not to the things which are seen and are temporal, but to those which are not seen and are eternal⁵⁷³³—in other words, not to the present, but to the future? But if it be of the future life of Christ that he speaks, intimating that it is to be made manifest in our body,⁵⁷³⁴ then he has clearly predicted the resurrection of the flesh.⁵⁷³⁵ He says, too, that "our outward man perishes,"⁵⁷³⁶ not meaning by an eternal perdition after death, but by labours and sufferings, in reference to which he previously said, "For which cause we will not faint."⁵⁷³⁷ Now, when he adds of "the inward man" also, that it "is renewed day by day," he demonstrates both issues here—the wasting away of the body by the wear and tear⁵⁷³⁸ of its trials, and the renewal of the soul⁵⁷³⁹ by its contemplation of the promises.



5729 2 Cor. iv. 8–12.

5730 Oehler, after Fr. Junius, defends the reading "mortificationem dei," instead of Domini, in reference to Marcion, who seems to have so corrupted the reading.

5731 2 Cor. iv. 10.

5732 2 Cor. iv. 10.

5733 2 Cor. iv. 16–18.

5734 2 Cor. iv. 11.

5735 2 Cor. iv. 14.

5736 2 Cor. iv. 16.

5737 2 Cor. iv. 16.

5738 Vexatione.

5739 Animi.

Chapter XII.—The Eternal Home in Heaven. Beautiful Exposition by Tertullian of the Apostle's Consolatory Teaching Against the Fear of Death, So Apt to Arise Under Anti-Christian Oppression. The Judgment-Seat of Christ—The Idea, Anti-Marcionite. Paradise. Judicial Characteristics of Christ Which are Inconsistent with the Heretical Views About Him; The Apostle's Sharpness, or Severity, Shows Him to Be a Fit Preacher of the Creator's Christ.

As to the house of this our earthly dwelling-place, when he says that "we have an eternal home in heaven, not made with hands,"⁵⁷⁴⁰ he by no means would imply that, because it was built by the Creator's hand, it must perish in a perpetual dissolution after death.⁵⁷⁴¹ He treats of this subject in order to offer consolation against the fear of death and the dread of this very dissolution, as is even more manifest from what follows, when he adds, that "in this tabernacle of our earthly body we do groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with the vesture which is from heaven,⁵⁷⁴² if so be, that having been unclothed,⁵⁷⁴³ we shall not be found naked;" in other words, shall regain that of which we have been divested, even our body. And again he says: "We that are in this tabernacle do groan, not as if we were oppressed⁵⁷⁴⁴ with an unwillingness to be unclothed, but (we wish) to be clothed upon."⁵⁷⁴⁵ He here says expressly, what he touched but lightly⁵⁷⁴⁶ in his first epistle, where he wrote: "The dead shall be raised incorruptible (meaning those who had undergone mortality), "and we shall be changed" (whom God shall find to be yet in the flesh).⁵⁷⁴⁷ Both *those* shall be raised incorruptible, because they shall regain their body—and that a renewed one, from which shall come their incorruptibility; and *these* also shall, in the crisis of the last moment, and from their instantaneous death, whilst encountering the oppressions of anti-christ, undergo a change, obtaining therein not so much a divestiture of body as "a clothing upon" with the vesture which is from heaven.⁵⁷⁴⁸ So that whilst these shall put on over their (changed) body this, heavenly raiment, the dead also shall for their part⁵⁷⁴⁹ recover their body, over which they too have a supervesture to put on, even the incorruption of heaven;⁵⁷⁵⁰

5740 2 Cor. v. 1.

5741 As Marcion would have men believe.

5742 2 Cor. v. 2, 3.

5743 Despoliati.

5744 Gravemur.

5745 2 Cor. v. 4.

5746 Strinxit.

5747 1 Cor. xv. 52.

5748 Superinduti magis quod de cœlo quam exuti corpus.

5749 Utique et mortui.

5750 De cœlo.

because of these it was that he said: “This corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”⁵⁷⁵¹ The one put on this (heavenly) apparel,⁵⁷⁵² when they recover their bodies; the others put it on as a supervesture,⁵⁷⁵³ when they indeed hardly lose them (in the suddenness of their change). It was accordingly not without good reason that he described them as “not wishing indeed to be unclothed,” but (rather as wanting) “to be clothed upon;”⁵⁷⁵⁴ in other words, as wishing not to undergo death, but to be surprised into life,⁵⁷⁵⁵ “that this mortal (body) might be swallowed up of life,”⁵⁷⁵⁶ by being rescued from death in the supervesture of its changed state. This is why he shows us how much better it is for us not to be sorry, if we should be surprised by death, and tells us that we even hold of God “the earnest of His Spirit”⁵⁷⁵⁷ (pledged as it were thereby to have “the clothing upon,” which is the object of our hope), and that “so long as we are in the flesh, we are absent from the Lord;”⁵⁷⁵⁸ moreover, that we ought on this account to prefer⁵⁷⁵⁹ “rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord,”⁵⁷⁶⁰ and so to be ready to meet even death with joy. In this view it is that he informs us how “we must all appear before the judgement-seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in his body, according as he hath done either good or bad.”⁵⁷⁶¹ Since, however, there is then to be a retribution according to men’s merits, how will any be able to reckon with⁵⁷⁶² God? But by mentioning both the judgment-seat and the distinction between works good and bad, he sets before us a Judge who is to award both sentences,⁵⁷⁶³ and has thereby affirmed that all will have to be present at the tribunal in their bodies. For it will be impossible to pass sentence except on the body, for what has been done in the body. God would be unjust, if any one were not punished or else rewarded in that very condition,⁵⁷⁶⁴ wherein the merit was itself achieved. “If therefore any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold,



5751 1 Cor. xv. 53.

5752 Induunt.

5753 Superinduunt.

5754 2 Cor. v. 4.

5755 Vita præveniri.

5756 2 Cor. v. 4; and see his treatise, *De Resurrect. Carnis*, cap. xlii.

5757 2 Cor. v. 5.

5758 2 Cor. v. 6.

5759 Boni ducere.

5760 2 Cor. v. 8.

5761 2 Cor. v. 10.

5762 Deputari cum.

5763 2 Cor. v. 10.

5764 Per id, per quod, i.e., corpus.

all things are become new;⁵⁷⁶⁵ and so is accomplished the prophecy of Isaiah.⁵⁷⁶⁶ When also he (in a later passage) enjoins us “to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and blood”⁵⁷⁶⁷ (since this substance enters not the kingdom of God⁵⁷⁶⁸); when, again, he “espouses the church as a chaste virgin to Christ,”⁵⁷⁶⁹ a spouse to a spouse in very deed,⁵⁷⁷⁰ an image cannot be combined and compared with what is opposed to the real nature of the thing (with which it is compared). So when he designates “false apostles, deceitful workers transforming themselves” into likenesses of himself,⁵⁷⁷¹ of course by their hypocrisy, he charges them with the guilt of disorderly conversation, rather than of false doctrine.⁵⁷⁷² The contrariety, therefore, was one of conduct, not of gods.⁵⁷⁷³ If “Satan himself, too, is transformed into an angel of light,”⁵⁷⁷⁴ such an assertion must not be used to the prejudice of the Creator. The Creator is not an angel, but God. Into a god of light, and not an angel of light, must Satan then have been said to be transformed, if he did not mean to call him “the angel,” which both we and Marcion know him to be. *On Paradise* is the title of a treatise of ours, in which is discussed all that the subject admits of.⁵⁷⁷⁵ I shall here simply wonder, in connection with this matter, whether a god who has no dispensation of any kind on earth could possibly have a paradise to call his own—without perchance availing himself of the paradise of the Creator, to use it as he does His world—much in the character of a mendicant.⁵⁷⁷⁶ And yet of the removal of a man from earth to heaven we have an instance afforded us by the Creator in Elijah.⁵⁷⁷⁷ But what will excite my surprise still more is the case (next supposed by Marcion), that a God so good and gracious, and so averse to blows and cruelty, should have suborned the angel Satan—not his own either, but the Creator’s—“to buffet” the apostle,⁵⁷⁷⁸ and then to have refused his request, when thrice entreated to liberate him!

5765 2 Cor. v. 17.

5766 Isa. xliii. 19.

5767 His reading of 2 Cor. vii. 1.

5768 1 Cor. xv. 50.

5769 2 Cor. xi. 2.

5770 Utique ut sponsam sponso.

5771 2 Cor. xi. 13.

5772 Prædicationis adulteratæ.

5773 A reference to Marcion’s other god of the New Testament, of which he tortured the epistles (and this passage among them) to produce the evidence.

5774 2 Cor. xi. 14.

5775 Patitur. The work here referred to is not extant; it is, however, referred to in the *De Anima*, c. lv.

5776 Precario; “that which one must beg for.” See, however, above, book iv. chap. xxii. p. 384, note 8, for a different turn to this word.

5777 2 Kings ii. 11.

5778 2 Cor. xii. 7, 8.

It would seem, therefore, that Marcion's god imitates the Creator's conduct, who is an enemy to the proud, even "putting down the mighty from their seats."⁵⁷⁷⁹ Is he then the same God as He who gave Satan power over the person of Job that his "strength might be made perfect in weakness?"⁵⁷⁸⁰ How is it that the censurer of the Galatians⁵⁷⁸¹ still retains the very formula of the law: "In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established?"⁵⁷⁸² How again is it that he threatens sinners "that he will not spare" them⁵⁷⁸³—he, the preacher of a most gentle god? Yea, he even declares that "the Lord hath given to him the power of using sharpness in their presence!"⁵⁷⁸⁴ Deny now, O heretic, (at your cost,) that your god is an object to be feared, when his apostle was for making himself so formidable!

5779 1 Sam. ii. 7, 8; Ps. cxlvii. 6; Luke i. 52.

5780 Job i. 12 and 2 Cor. xii. 9.

5781 Gal. i. 6–9.

5782 2 Cor. xiii. 1.

5783 2 Cor. xiii. 2.

5784 2 Cor. xiii. 10.

Chapter XIII.—The Epistle to the Romans. St. Paul Cannot Help Using Phrases Which Bespeak the Justice of God, Even When He is Eulogizing the Mercies of the Gospel. Marcion Particularly Hard in Mutilation of This Epistle. Yet Our Author Argues on Common Ground. The Judgment at Last Will Be in Accordance with the Gospel. The Justified by Faith Exhorted to Have Peace with God. The Administration of the Old and the New Dispensations in One and the Same Hand.

Since my little work is approaching its termination,⁵⁷⁸⁵ I must treat but briefly the points which still occur, whilst those which have so often turned up must be put aside. I regret still to have to contend about the law—after I have so often proved that its replacement (by the gospel)⁵⁷⁸⁶ affords no argument for another god, predicted as it was indeed in Christ, and in the Creator's own plans⁵⁷⁸⁷ ordained for *His* Christ. (But I must revert to that discussion) so far as (the apostle leads me, for) this very epistle looks very much as if it abrogated⁵⁷⁸⁸ the law. We have, however, often shown before now that God is declared by the apostle to be a Judge; and that in the Judge is implied an Avenger; and in the Avenger, the Creator. And so in the passage where he says: "I am not ashamed of the gospel (of Christ): for it is the power of god unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek; for therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith,"⁵⁷⁸⁹ he undoubtedly ascribes both the gospel and salvation to Him whom (in accordance with our heretic's own distinction) I have called the *just* God, not the *good* one. It is He who removes (men) from confidence in the law to faith in the gospel—that is to say,⁵⁷⁹⁰ His own law and His own gospel. When, again, he declares that "the wrath (of God) is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness,"⁵⁷⁹¹ (I ask) the wrath of what God? Of the Creator certainly. The truth, therefore, will be His, whose is also the wrath, which has to be revealed to avenge the truth. Likewise, when adding, "We are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth,"⁵⁷⁹² he both vindicated that wrath from which comes this judgment for the truth, and at the same time afforded another proof that the truth emanates from the same God whose wrath he attested, by wit-



5785 Profligatur.
5786 Concessionem.
5787 Apud Creatorem.
5788 Excludere.
5789 Rom. i. 16, 17.
5790 Utique.
5791 Rom. i. 18.
5792 Rom. ii. 2.

nessing to His judgment. *Marcion's averment* is quite a different matter, that⁵⁷⁹³ the Creator in anger avenges Himself on the truth of the rival god which had been detained in unrighteousness. But what serious gaps Marcion has made in this epistle especially, by withdrawing whole passages at his will, will be clear from the unmutilated text of our own copy.⁵⁷⁹⁴ It is enough for my purpose to accept in evidence of its truth what he has seen fit to leave un-erased, strange instances as they are also of his negligence and blindness. If, then, God will judge the secrets of men—both of those who have sinned in the law, and of those who have sinned without law (inasmuch as they who know not the law yet do by nature the things contained in the law)⁵⁷⁹⁵—surely the God who shall judge is He to whom belong both the law, and that nature which is the rule⁵⁷⁹⁶ to them who know not the law. But how will He conduct this judgment? “According to my gospel,” says (*the apostle*), “by (*Jesus*) Christ.”⁵⁷⁹⁷ So that both the gospel and Christ must be His, to whom appertain the law and the nature which are to be vindicated by the gospel and Christ—even at that judgment of God which, as he previously said, was to be according to truth.⁵⁷⁹⁸ The wrath, therefore, which is to vindicate truth, can only be revealed from heaven by the God of wrath;⁵⁷⁹⁹ so that this sentence, which is quite in accordance with that previous one wherein the judgment is declared to be the Creator's,⁵⁸⁰⁰ cannot possibly be ascribed to another god who is not a judge, and is incapable of wrath. It is only consistent in Him amongst whose attributes are found the judgment and the wrath of which I am speaking, and to whom of necessity must also appertain the *media* whereby these attributes are to be carried into effect, even the gospel and Christ. Hence his invective against the transgressors of the law, who teach that men should not steal, and yet practise theft themselves.⁵⁸⁰¹ (This invective he utters) in perfect homage⁵⁸⁰² to the law of God, not as if he meant to censure the Creator Himself with having commanded⁵⁸⁰³ a fraud to be practised against the Egyptians to get their gold and silver at the very time when He was forbidding men to steal,⁵⁸⁰⁴—adopting such methods as they

5793 Aliud est si.

5794 Nostri instrumenti.

5795 Rom. ii. 12–16.

5796 Instar legis: “which is as good as a law to them,” etc.

5797 Rom. ii. 16.

5798 Rom. ii. 2.

5799 Rom. i. 18.

5800 See the remarks on [verses 16 and 17](#) above.

5801 Rom. ii. 21.

5802 Ut homo.

5803 Ex. iii. 22.

5804 Ex. xx. 15; see above, book iv. chap. xxiv. p. 387.

are apt (shamelessly) to charge upon Him in other particulars also. Are we then to suppose⁵⁸⁰⁵ that the apostle abstained through fear from openly calumniating God, from whom notwithstanding He did not hesitate to withdraw men? Well, but he had gone so far in his censure of the Jews, as to point against them the denunciation of the prophet, “Through you the name of God is blasphemed (among the Gentiles).”⁵⁸⁰⁶ But how absurd, that he should himself blaspheme Him for blaspheming whom he upbraids them as evil-doers! He prefers even circumcision of heart to neglect of it in the flesh. Now it is quite within the purpose of the God of the law that circumcision should be that of the heart, not in the flesh; in the spirit, and not in the letter.⁵⁸⁰⁷ Since this is the circumcision recommended by Jeremiah: “Circumcise (yourselves to the Lord, and take away) the foreskins of your heart;”⁵⁸⁰⁸ and even of Moses: “Circumcise, therefore, the hardness of your heart,”⁵⁸⁰⁹—the *Spirit* which circumcises the heart will proceed from Him who prescribed the *letter* also which clips⁵⁸¹⁰ the flesh; and “the Jew which is one inwardly” will be a subject of the self-same God as he also is who is “a Jew outwardly;”⁵⁸¹¹ because the apostle would have preferred not to have mentioned a Jew at all, unless he were a servant of the God of the Jews. It was once⁵⁸¹² the law; now it is “the righteousness of God which is by the faith of (Jesus) Christ.”⁵⁸¹³ What means this distinction? Has your god been subserving the interests of the Creator’s dispensation, by affording time to Him and to His law? Is the “*Now*” in the hands of Him to whom belonged the “*Then*”? Surely, then, the law was His, whose is now the righteousness of God. It is a distinction of dispensations, not of gods. He enjoins those who are justified by faith in Christ and not by the law to have peace with God.⁵⁸¹⁴ With what



5805 Scilicet verebatur.

5806 Rom. ii. 24.

5807 Rom. ii. 29.

5808 Jer. iv. 4.

5809 Deut. x. 16 (Sept.).

5810 Metens.

5811 Rom. ii. 28.

5812 Tunc.

5813 Rom. iii. 21, 22.

5814 Tertullian, by the word “*enjoins*” (monet), seems to have read the passage in [Rom. v. 1](#) in the hortatory sense with ἔχωμεν, “*let us have peace with God.*” If so, his authority must be added to that exceedingly strong ms. authority which Dean Alford (*Greek Test. in loc.*) regrets to find overpowering the received reading of ἔχομεν, “*we have,*” etc. We subjoin Alford’s critical note in support of the ἔχωμεν, which (with Lachmann) he yet admits into his more recent text: “AB (originally) CDKLFh (originally) m 17 latt (including F-lat); of the versions the older Syriac (Peschito) (and Copt; of the fathers, Chrysostom, Cyril, Theodoret, Damascene, Theophylact, Cæcumenius, Rufinus, Pelagius, Orosius, Augustine, Cassiodorus,” before whom I would insert Tertullian, and the *Codex Sinaiticus*, in its original state; although, like its great rival in authority, the *Codex Vaticanus*, it

God? Him whose enemies we have never, in any dispensation,⁵⁸¹⁵ been? Or Him against whom we have rebelled, both in relation to His written law and His law of nature? Now, as peace is only possible towards Him with whom there once was war, we shall be both justified by Him, and to Him also will belong the Christ, in whom we are justified by faith, and through whom alone God's⁵⁸¹⁶ enemies can ever be reduced to peace. "Moreover," says he, "the law entered, that the offence might abound."⁵⁸¹⁷ And wherefore this? "In order," he says, "that (where sin abounded), grace might much more abound."⁵⁸¹⁸ Whose grace, if not of that God from whom also came the law? Unless it be, forsooth, that⁵⁸¹⁹ the Creator intercalated His law for the mere purpose of⁵⁸²⁰ producing some employment for the grace of a rival god, an enemy to Himself (I had almost said, a god unknown to Him), "that as sin had" in His own dispensation⁵⁸²¹ "reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto (eternal) life by Jesus Christ,"⁵⁸²² His own antagonist! For this (I suppose it was, that) the law of the Creator had "concluded all under sin,"⁵⁸²³ and had brought in "all the world as guilty (before God)," and had "stopped every mouth,"⁵⁸²⁴ so that none could glory through it, in order that grace might be maintained to the glory of the Christ, not of the Creator, but of Marcion! I may here anticipate a remark about the substance of Christ, in the prospect of a question which will now turn up. For he says that "we are dead to the law."⁵⁸²⁵ It may be contended that Christ's body is indeed a body, but not exactly⁵⁸²⁶ flesh. Now, whatever may be the substance, since he mentions "the body of Christ,"⁵⁸²⁷

afterwards received the reading ἔχομεν. These second readings of these mss., and the later Syriac (Philoxenian), with Epiphanius, Didymus, and Sedulius, are the almost only authorities quoted for the received text. [Dr. H. over-estimates the "rival" *Codices*.]

5815 Nusquam.

5816 Ejus.

5817 [Rom. v. 20.](#)

5818 [Rom. v. 20.](#)

5819 Nisi si: an ironical particle.

5820 Ideo ut.

5821 Apud ipsum.

5822 [Rom. v. 21.](#)

5823 [Gal. iii. 22.](#)

5824 [Rom. iii. 19.](#)

5825 [Rom. vii. 4](#), also [Gal. ii. 19](#). This (although a quotation) is here a Marcionite argument; but there is no need to suppose, with Pamelius, that Marcion tampers with [Rom. vi. 2](#). Oehler also supposes that this is the passage quoted. But no doubt it is a correct quotation from the *seventh chapter*, as we have indicated.

5826 Statim (or, perhaps, in respect of the derivation), "firmly" or "stedfastly."

5827 Ejus.

whom he immediately after states to have been “raised from the dead,”⁵⁸²⁸ none other body can be understood than that of the flesh,⁵⁸²⁹ in respect of which the law was called (the law) of death.⁵⁸³⁰ But, behold, he bears testimony to the law, and excuses it on the ground of sin: “What shall we say, therefore? Is the law sin? God forbid.”⁵⁸³¹ Fie on you, Marcion. “God forbid!” (See how) the apostle recoils from all impeachment of the law. I, however, have no acquaintance with sin except through the law.⁵⁸³² But how high an encomium of the law (do we obtain) from this fact, that by it there comes to light the latent presence of sin!⁵⁸³³ It was not the law, therefore, which led me astray, but “sin, taking occasion by the commandment.”⁵⁸³⁴ Why then do you, (O Marcion,) impute to the God of the law what His apostle dares not impute even to the law itself? Nay, he adds a climax: “The law is holy, and its commandment just and good.”⁵⁸³⁵ Now if he thus reverences the Creator’s law, I am at a loss to know how he can destroy the Creator Himself. Who can draw a distinction, and say that there are two gods, one just and the other good, when He ought to be believed to be both one and the other, whose commandment is both “*just and good?*” Then, again, when affirming the law to be “spiritual”⁵⁸³⁶ he thereby implies that it is prophetic, and that it is figurative. Now from even this circumstance I am bound to conclude that Christ was predicted by the law but figuratively, so that indeed He could not be recognised by all the Jews.



5828 [Rom. vii. 4.](#)

5829 In this argument Tertullian applies with good effect the terms “flesh” and “body,” making the first [which he elsewhere calls the “*terrena materia*” of our nature (*ad Uxor.* i. 4)] the proof of the reality of the second, in opposition to Marcion’s *Docetic* error. “Σὰρξ is not = σῶμα, but as in [John i. 14](#), the *material* of which man is in the body compounded” (Alford).

5830 Compare the [first part of ver. 4](#) with [vers. 5 and 6](#) and [viii. 2, 3.](#)

5831 [Rom. vii. 7.](#)

5832 This, which is really the second clause of [Rom. vii. 7](#), seems to be here put as a Marcionite argument of disparagement to the law.

5833 *Per quam liquit delictum latere*: a playful paradox, in the manner of our author, between *liquere* and *latere*.

5834 [Rom. vii. 8.](#)

5835 [Rom. vii. 13.](#)

5836 [Rom. vii. 14.](#)

Chapter XIV.—The Divine Power Shown in Christ's Incarnation. Meaning of St. Paul's Phrase. Likeness of Sinful Flesh. No Docetism in It. Resurrection of Our Real Bodies. A Wide Chasm Made in the Epistle by Marcion's Erasure. When the Jews are Upbraided by the Apostle for Their Misconduct to God; Inasmuch as that God Was the Creator, a Proof is in Fact Given that St. Paul's God Was the Creator. The Precepts at the End of the Epistle, Which Marcion Allowed, Shown to Be in Exact Accordance with the Creator's Scriptures.

If the Father “sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh,”⁵⁸³⁷ it must not therefore be said that the flesh which He seemed to have was but a phantom. For he in a previous verse ascribed sin to the flesh, and made it out to be “the law of sin dwelling in his members,” and “warring against the law of the mind.”⁵⁸³⁸ On this account, therefore, (does he mean to say that) the Son was sent in the likeness of sinful flesh, that He might redeem this sinful flesh by a like substance, even a fleshly one, which bare a resemblance to sinful flesh, although it was itself free from sin. Now this will be the very perfection of divine power to effect the salvation (of man) in a nature like his own.⁵⁸³⁹ For it would be no great matter if the Spirit of God remedied the flesh; but when a flesh, which is the very copy⁵⁸⁴⁰ of the sinning substance—itsself flesh also—only without sin, (effects the remedy, then doubtless it is a great thing). The *likeness*, therefore, will have reference to the quality⁵⁸⁴¹ of the sinfulness, and not to any falsity⁵⁸⁴² of the substance. Because he would not have added the attribute “sinful,”⁵⁸⁴³ if he meant the “likeness” to be so predicated of the substance as to deny the verity thereof; in that case he would only have used the word “flesh,” and omitted the “sinful.” But inasmuch as he has put the two together, and said “sinful flesh,” (or “flesh of sin,”)⁵⁸⁴⁴ he

5837 Rom. viii. 3.

5838 Sensus νόος in Rom. vii. 23.

5839 Pari.

5840 Consimilis.

5841 Titulum.

5842 Mendacium.

5843 This vindication of these terms of the apostle from *Docetism* is important. The word which our A.V. has translated *sinful* is a stronger term in the original. It is not the adjective ἀμαρτωλοῦ, but the substantive ἀμαρτίας, amounting to “flesh of sin,” *i.e.* (as Dean Alford interprets it) “the flesh whose attribute and character is *sin*.” “The words ἐν ὁμοιώματι σαρκὸς ἀμαρτίας, De Wette observes, appear almost to border on Docetism, but in reality contain a perfectly true and consistent sentiment; σὰρξ ἀμαρτίας; is flesh, or human nature, possessed with sin... The likeness, predicated in Rom. viii. 3, must be referred not only to σὰρξ, but also to the epithet τῆς ἀμαρτίας” (*Greek Testament, in loc.*).

5844 Carnis peccati.

has both affirmed the substance, that is, the flesh and referred the *likeness* to the fault of the substance, that is, to its sin. But even suppose⁵⁸⁴⁵ that the likeness was predicated of the substance, the truth of the said substance will not be thereby denied. Why then *call* the true *substance like*? Because it is indeed true, only not of a seed of like condition⁵⁸⁴⁶ with our own; but true still, as being of a nature⁵⁸⁴⁷ not really unlike ours.⁵⁸⁴⁸ And again, in contrary things there is no likeness. Thus the likeness of flesh would not be called *spirit*, because flesh is not susceptible of any likeness to spirit; but it would be called *phantom*, if it seemed to be that which it really was not. It is, however, called *likeness*, since it is what it seems to be. Now it is (what it seems to be), because it is on a par with the other thing (with which it is compared).⁵⁸⁴⁹ But a phantom, which is merely such and nothing else,⁵⁸⁵⁰ is not a likeness. The apostle, however, himself here *comes to our aid; for*, while explaining in what sense he would not have us “live in the flesh,” although in the flesh—even by not living in the works of the flesh⁵⁸⁵¹—he shows that when he wrote the words, “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God,”⁵⁸⁵² it was not with the view of condemning the substance (of the flesh), but the works thereof; and because it is possible for these not to be committed by us whilst we are still in the flesh, they will therefore be properly chargeable,⁵⁸⁵³ not on the substance of the flesh, but on its conduct. Likewise, if “the body indeed is dead because of sin” (from which statement we see that not the death of the soul is meant, but that of the body), “but the spirit is life because of righteousness,”⁵⁸⁵⁴ *it follows that this life* accrues to



5845 Puta nunc.

5846 Statu.

5847 Censu: perhaps “birth.” This word, which originally means the *censor’s* registration, is by our author often used for *origo* and *natura*, because in the registers were inserted the birthdays and the parents’ names (Oehler).

5848 It is better that we should give the original of this sentence. Its structure is characteristically difficult, although the general sense, as Oehler suggests, is clear enough: “Quia vera quidem, sed non ex semine de statu simili (similis, *Latinus* and *Junius* and *Semler*), sed vera de censu non vero dissimili (dissimilis, *the older reading* and *Semler’s*).” We add the note of Fr. Junius: “The meaning is, that Christ’s flesh is true indeed, in what they call the identity of its *substance*, although not of its *origin* (ortus) and *qualities*—not of its original, because not of a (father’s) seed, as in the case of ourselves; not of qualities, because these have not in Him the like condition which they have in us.”

5849 Dum alterius par est.

5850 Qua hoc tantum est.

5851 See [Rom. viii. 5–13](#).

5852 [1 Cor. xv. 50](#).

5853 Non ad reatum substantiæ sed ad conversationis pertinebunt.

5854 [Rom. viii. 10](#).

that which incurred death because of sin, that is, *as we have just seen*, the body. Now *the body*⁵⁸⁵⁵ is only restored to him who had lost it; so that the resurrection of the dead implies the resurrection of their bodies. He accordingly subjoins: “He that raised up Christ from the dead, shall also quicken your mortal bodies.”⁵⁸⁵⁶ In these words he both affirmed the resurrection of the flesh (without which nothing can rightly be called⁵⁸⁵⁷ body, nor can anything be properly regarded as mortal), and proved the bodily substance of Christ; inasmuch as our own mortal bodies will be quickened in precisely the same way as He was raised; and that was in no other way than in the body. I have here a very wide gulf of expunged Scripture to leap across;⁵⁸⁵⁸ however, I alight on the place where the apostle bears record of Israel “that they have a zeal of God”—their own God, of course—“but not according to knowledge. For,” says he, “being ignorant of (the righteousness of) God, and going about to establish their own righteousness, they have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God; for Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”⁵⁸⁵⁹ Hereupon we shall be confronted with an argument of the heretic, that the Jews were ignorant of the superior God,⁵⁸⁶⁰ since, in opposition to him, they set up their own righteousness—that is, the righteousness of their law—not receiving Christ, the end (or finisher) of the law. But how then is it that he bears testimony to their zeal for their own God, if it is not in respect of the same God that he upbraids them for their ignorance? They were affected indeed with zeal for God, but it was not an intelligent zeal: they were, in fact, ignorant of Him, because they were ignorant of His dispensations by Christ, who was to bring about the consummation of the law; and in this way did they maintain their own righteousness in opposition to Him. But so does the Creator Himself testify to their ignorance concerning Him: “Israel hath not known me; my people have not understood me;”⁵⁸⁶¹ and as to their preferring the establishment of their own righteousness, (the Creator again describes them as) “teaching for doctrines the commandments of men;”⁵⁸⁶² moreover, as “having gathered themselves together against

5855 Understand “*corpus*” (Oehler).

5856 Rom. viii. 11.

5857 Dicitur *capit*: *capit*, like the Greek ἐνδέχεται, means, “is capable or susceptible;” often so in Tertullian.

5858 We do not know from either Tertullian or Epiphanius what mutilations Marcion made in this epistle. This particular gap did not extend further than from Rom. viii. 11 to x. 2. “However, we are informed by Origen (or rather Rufinus in his edition of Origen’s commentary on this epistle, on xiv. 23) that Marcion omitted the last two chapters as spurious, ending this epistle of his *Apostolicon* with the 23d verse of chap. xiv. It is also observable that Tertullian quotes no passage from chaps. xv., xvi. in his confutation of Marcion from this epistle” (Lardner).

5859 Rom. x. 2–4.

5860 The god of the New Testament, according to Marcion.

5861 Isa. i. 3.

5862 Isa. xxix. 13 (Sept.)

the Lord and against His Christ”⁵⁸⁶³—from ignorance of Him, of course. Now nothing can be expounded of another god which is applicable to the Creator; otherwise the apostle would not have been just in reproaching the Jews with ignorance in respect of a god of whom they knew nothing. For where had been their sin, if they only maintained the righteousness of their own God against one of whom they were ignorant? But he exclaims: “O the depth of the riches and the wisdom of God; how unsearchable also are His ways!”⁵⁸⁶⁴ Whence this outburst of feeling? Surely from the recollection of the Scriptures, which he had been previously turning over, as well as from his contemplation of the mysteries which he had been setting forth above, in relation to the faith of Christ coming from the law.⁵⁸⁶⁵ If Marcion had an object in his erasures,⁵⁸⁶⁶ why does his apostle utter such an exclamation, because his god has no riches for him to contemplate? So poor and indigent was he, that he created nothing, predicted nothing—in short, possessed nothing; for it was into the world of another God that he descended. The truth is, the Creator’s resources and riches, which once had been hidden, were now disclosed. For so had He promised: “I will give to them treasures which have been hidden, and which men have not seen will I open to them.”⁵⁸⁶⁷ Hence, then, came the exclamation, “O the depth of the riches and the wisdom of God!” For His treasures were now opening out. This is the purport of what Isaiah said, and of (the apostle’s own) subsequent quotation of the self-same passage, of the prophet: “Who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor? Who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed to him again?”⁵⁸⁶⁸ Now, (Marcion,) since you have expunged so much from the Scriptures, why did you retain these words, as if they too were not the Creator’s words? But come now, let us see without mistake⁵⁸⁶⁹ the precepts of your new god: “Abhor that which is evil, and cleave to that which is good.”⁵⁸⁷⁰ Well, is the precept different in the Creator’s teaching? “Take away the evil from you, depart from it, and be doing good.”⁵⁸⁷¹ *Then again:* “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love.”⁵⁸⁷² Now is not this



5863 Ps. ii. 2.

5864 Rom. xi. 33.

5865 In fidem Christi ex lege venientem. By “the law” he means the Old Testament in general, and probably refers to Rom. x. 17.

5866 Rigaltius (after Fulvius Ursinus) read “non erasit,” but with insufficient authority; besides, the context shows that he was referring to the large erasure which he had already mentioned, so that the *non* is inadmissible. Marcion must, of course, be understood to have retained Rom. xi. 33; hence the argument in this sentence.

5867 Isa. xlv. 3.

5868 Isa. xl. 13, quoted (according to the Sept.) by the apostle in Rom. xi. 34, 35.

5869 Plane: ironically.

5870 Rom. xii. 9.

5871 Ps. xxxiv. 14.

5872 Rom. xii. 10.

of the same import as: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thy self?"⁵⁸⁷³ (Again, your apostle says:) "Rejoicing in hope,"⁵⁸⁷⁴ that is, of God. *So says the Creator's Psalmist:* "It is better to hope in the Lord, than to hope even in princes."⁵⁸⁷⁵ "Patient in tribulation."⁵⁸⁷⁶ You have (this in) the Psalm: "The Lord hear thee in the day of tribulation."⁵⁸⁷⁷ "Bless, and curse not,"⁵⁸⁷⁸ (says your apostle.) But what better teacher of this will you find than Him who created all things, and blessed them? "Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits."⁵⁸⁷⁹ For against such a disposition Isaiah pronounces a woe.⁵⁸⁸⁰ "Recompense to no man evil for evil."⁵⁸⁸¹ (Like unto which is the Creator's precept:) "Thou shalt not remember thy brother's evil against thee."⁵⁸⁸² (Again:) "Avenge not yourselves;"⁵⁸⁸³ *for it is written,* "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord."⁵⁸⁸⁴ "Live peaceably with all men."⁵⁸⁸⁵ The retaliation of the law, therefore, permitted not retribution for an injury; it rather repressed any attempt thereat by the fear of a recompense. Very properly, then, did he sum up the entire teaching of the Creator in this precept of His: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."⁵⁸⁸⁶ Now, if this is the recapitulation of the law from the very law itself, I am at a loss to know who is the God of the law. I fear He must be Marcion's god (after all).⁵⁸⁸⁷ If also the gospel of Christ is fulfilled in this same precept, but not the Creator's Christ, what is the use of our contending any longer whether Christ did or did not say, "I am not come to destroy the law, but to fulfil it?"⁵⁸⁸⁸ In vain has (our man of) Pontus laboured to deny this statement.⁵⁸⁸⁹ If the gospel has not fulfilled the

5873 [Lev. xix. 18.](#)

5874 [Rom. xii. 12.](#)

5875 [Ps. cxviii. 9.](#)

5876 [Rom. xii. 12.](#)

5877 [Ps. xx. 1.](#)

5878 [Rom. xii. 12.](#)

5879 [Rom. xii. 16.](#)

5880 [Isa. v. 21.](#)

5881 [Rom. xii. 17.](#)

5882 [Lev. xix. 17, 18.](#)

5883 [Rom. xii. 19.](#)

5884 [Rom. xii. 19, quoted from Deut. xxxii. 25.](#)

5885 [Rom. xii. 18.](#)

5886 [Rom. xiii. 9.](#)

5887 Ironically said. He has been quoting all along from *Marcion's* text of St. Paul, turning its testimony against Marcion.

5888 [Matt. v. 17.](#)

5889 For although he rejected St. Matthew's Gospel, which contains the statement, he retained St. Paul's epistle, from which the statement is clearly proved.

law, then all I can say is,⁵⁸⁹⁰ the law has fulfilled the gospel. But it is well that in a *later* verse he threatens us with “the judgment-seat of Christ,”—the Judge, of course, and the Avenger, and therefore the Creator’s (Christ). This *Creator*, too, however much he may preach up another god, he certainly sets forth for us as a Being to be served,⁵⁸⁹¹ if he holds Him thus up as an object to be feared.

5890 Ecce.

5891 Promerendum.

Chapter XV.—The First Epistle to the Thessalonians. The Shorter Epistles Pungent in Sense and Very Valuable. St. Paul Upbraids the Jews for the Death First of Their Prophets and Then of Christ. This a Presumption that Both Christ and the Prophets Pertained to the Same God. The Law of Nature, Which is in Fact the Creator's Discipline, and the Gospel of Christ Both Enjoin Chastity. The Resurrection Provided for in the Old Testament by Christ. Man's Compound Nature.

I shall not be sorry to bestow attention on the shorter epistles also. Even in brief works there is much pungency.⁵⁸⁹² The Jews had slain their prophets.⁵⁸⁹³ I may ask, What has this to do with the apostle of the rival god, one so amiable withal, who could hardly be said to condemn even the failings of his own people; and who, moreover, has himself some hand in making away with the same prophets whom he is destroying? What injury did Israel commit against him in slaying those whom he too has reprobated, since he was the first to pass a hostile sentence on them? But *Israel* sinned against their own God. He upbraided their iniquity to whom the injured *God* pertains; and certainly he is anything but the adversary of the injured *Deity*. Else he would not have burdened them with the charge of killing even the Lord, in the words, "Who both killed the Lord *Jesus* and their own prophets," although (the pronoun) *their own* be an addition of the heretics.⁵⁸⁹⁴ Now, what was there so very acrimonious⁵⁸⁹⁵ in their killing Christ the proclaimer of the new god, after they had put to death also the prophets of their own god? The fact, however, of their having slain the Lord and His servants, is put as a case of climax.⁵⁸⁹⁶ Now, if it were the Christ of one god and the prophets of another god whom they slew, he would certainly have placed the impious crimes on the same level, instead of mentioning them in the way of a climax; but they did not admit of being put on the same level: the climax, therefore, was only possible⁵⁸⁹⁷ by the



5892 Sapor. We have here a characteristic touch of his diligent and also intrepid spirit. Epiphanius says this short epistle "was so entirely corrupted by Marcion, that he had himself selected nothing from it whereon to found any refutations of him or of his doctrine." Tertullian, however, was of a different mind; for he has made it evident, that though there were alterations made by Marcion, yet sufficient was left untouched by him to show the absurdity of his opinions. Epiphanius and Tertullian entertained, respectively, similar opinions of Marcion's treatment of the second epistle, which the latter discusses in the next chapter (Larder).

5893 1 *Thess.* ii. 15.

5894 All the best mss., including the *Codices Alex., Vat., and Sinait.*, omit the ἰδίου, as do Tertullian and Origen. Marcion has Chrysostom and the *received text*, followed by our A.V., with him.

5895 Amarum.

5896 Status exaggerationis.

5897 Ergo exaggerari non potuit nisi.

sin having been in fact committed against one and the same Lord in the two respective circumstances.⁵⁸⁹⁸ To one and the same Lord, then, belonged Christ and the prophets. What that “sanctification of ours” is, which he declares to be “the will of God,” you may discover from the opposite conduct which he forbids. That we should “abstain from fornication,” not from marriage; that every one “should know how to possess his vessel in honour.”⁵⁸⁹⁹ In what way? “Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles.”⁵⁹⁰⁰ Concupiscence, however, is not ascribed to marriage even among the Gentiles, but to extravagant, unnatural, and enormous sins.⁵⁹⁰¹ The law of nature⁵⁹⁰² is opposed to luxury as well as to grossness and uncleanness;⁵⁹⁰³ it does not forbid connubial intercourse, but concupiscence; and it takes care of⁵⁹⁰⁴ our vessel by the honourable estate of matrimony. This passage (of the apostle) I would treat in such a way as to maintain the superiority of the other and higher sanctity, preferring continence and virginity to marriage, but by no means prohibiting the latter. For my hostility is directed against⁵⁹⁰⁵ those who are for destroying the God of marriage, not those who follow after chastity. He says that those who “remain unto the coming of Christ,” along with “the dead in Christ, shall rise first,” being “caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”⁵⁹⁰⁶ I find it was in their foresight of all this, that the heavenly intelligences gazed with admiration on “the Jerusalem which is above,”⁵⁹⁰⁷ and by the mouth of Isaiah said long ago: “Who are these that fly as clouds, and as doves with their young ones, unto me?”⁵⁹⁰⁸ Now, as Christ has prepared for us this ascension into heaven, He must be the Christ of whom Amos⁵⁹⁰⁹ spoke: “It is He who builds His ascent up to the heavens,”⁵⁹¹⁰ even for Himself and His people. Now, from whom shall I expect (the fulfilment of) all this, except from Him whom I have heard give the promise thereof?

5898 Ex utroque titulo.

5899 [1 Thess. iv. 3, 4.](#)

5900 [1 Thess. iv. 5.](#)

5901 Portentuosus.

5902 The rule of Gentile life.

5903 We have here followed Oehler’s reading, which is more intelligible than the four or five others given by him.

5904 Tractet.

5905 Retundo.

5906 [1 Thess. iv. 15–17.](#)

5907 [Gal. iv. 26.](#)

5908 [Isa. lx. 8.](#)

5909 Oehler and Fr. Junius here read Amos, but all the other readings give *Hosea*; but see above, book iii. chap. xxiv., where Amos was read by all.

5910 [Amos ix. 6.](#)

What “spirit” does he forbid us to “quench,” and what “prophesyings” to “despise?”⁵⁹¹¹ Not the Creator’s spirit, nor the Creator’s prophesyings, Marcion of course replies. For *he* has already quenched and despised the thing which he destroys, and is unable to forbid what he has despised.⁵⁹¹² It is then incumbent on Marcion now to display in his church that spirit of his god which must not be quenched, and the prophesyings which must not be despised. And since he has made such a display as he thinks fit, let him know that we shall challenge it whatever it may be to the rule⁵⁹¹³ of the grace and power of the Spirit and the prophets—namely, to foretell the future, to reveal the secrets of the heart, and to explain mysteries. And when he shall have failed to produce and give proof of any such criterion, we will then on our side bring out both the Spirit and the prophecies of the Creator, which utter predictions according to His will. Thus it will be clearly seen of what the apostle spoke, even of those things which were to happen in the church of his God; and as long as He endures, so long also does His Spirit work, and so long are His promises repeated.⁵⁹¹⁴ Come now, you who deny the salvation of the flesh, and who, whenever there occurs the specific mention of *body* in a case of this sort,⁵⁹¹⁵ interpret it as meaning anything rather than the substance of the flesh, (tell me) how is it that the apostle has given certain distinct names to all (our faculties), and has comprised them all in one prayer for their safety, desiring that our “spirit and soul and body may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord and Saviour (Jesus) Christ?”⁵⁹¹⁶ Now he has here propounded the soul and the body as two several and distinct things.⁵⁹¹⁷ For although the soul has a kind of body of a quality of its



5911 1 Thess. v. 19, 20.

5912 Nihil fecit. This is precisely St. Paul’s ἐξουθενεῖν, “to annihilate” (A.V. “despise”), in 1 Thess. v. 20.

5913 Formam.

5914 Celebratur.

5915 Si quando corpus in hujus modi prænominatur.

5916 1 Thess. v. 23. For a like application of this passage, see also our author’s treatise, *De Resurrect. Carnis*, cap. xlvii. [Elucidation I.]

5917 It is remarkable that our author quotes this text of the *three* principles, in defence only of *two* of them. But he was strongly opposed to the idea of any absolute division between the *soul* and the *spirit*. A distinction between these united parts, he might, under limitations, have admitted; but all idea of an actual separation and *division* he opposed and denied. See his *De Anima*, cap. x. St. Augustine more fully still maintained a similar opinion. See also his *De Anima*, iv. 32. Bp. Ellicott, in his interesting sermon *On the Threefold Nature of Man*, has given these references, and also a sketch of patristic opinion of this subject. The early fathers, Justin Martyr, Clement of Alex., Origen, as well as Didymus of Alex., Gregory Nyssen., and Basil, held distinctly the threefold nature. Our own divines, as is natural, are also divided in views. Bp. Bull, Hammond, and Jackson hold the *trichotomy*, as a triple nature is called; others, like Bp. Butler, deny the possibility of dividing our immaterial nature into two parts. This variation of opinion seems to have still representatives among our most recent commentators: while Dean Alford holds the triplicity of our nature literally with St. Paul, Archdeacon Wordsworth seems

own,⁵⁹¹⁸ just as the spirit has, yet as the soul and the body are distinctly named, the soul has its own peculiar appellation, not requiring the common designation of *body*. This is left for “the flesh,” which having no proper name (in this passage), necessarily makes use of the common designation. Indeed, I see no other substance in man, after *spirit* and *soul*, to which the term *body* can be applied except “the flesh.” This, therefore, I understand to be meant by the word “body”—as often as the latter is not specifically named. Much more do I so understand it in the present passage, where the flesh⁵⁹¹⁹ is expressly called by the name “body.”

to agree with Bp. Butler in regarding *soul* and *spirit* as component parts of one principle. See also Bp. Ellicott’s *Destiny of the Creature*, sermon v. and notes.

5918 On this paradox, that souls are corporeal, see his treatise *De Anima*, v., and following chapters (Oehler).
[See also cap. x. *supra*.]

5919 Quæ = caro.

Chapter XVI.—The Second Epistle to the Thessalonians. An Absurd Erasure of Marcion; Its Object Transparent. The Final Judgment on the Heathen as Well as the Jews Could Not Be Administered by Marcion’s Christ. The Man of Sin—What? Inconsistency of Marcion’s View. The Antichrist. The Great Events of the Last Apostasy Within the Providence and Intention of the Creator, Whose are All Things from the Beginning. Similarity of the Pauline Precepts with Those of the Creator.

We are obliged from time to time to recur to certain topics in order to affirm *truths* which are connected with them. We repeat then here, that as the Lord is by the apostle proclaimed⁵⁹²⁰ as the awarder of both weal and woe,⁵⁹²¹ He must be either the Creator, or (as Marcion would be loth to admit) One like the Creator—“with whom it is a righteous thing to recompense tribulation to them who afflict us, and to ourselves, who are afflicted, rest, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed as coming from heaven with the angels of His might and in flaming fire.”⁵⁹²² The heretic, however, has erased *the flaming fire*, no doubt that he might extinguish all traces herein of our own God. But the folly of the obliteration is clearly seen. For as the apostle declares that the Lord will come “to take vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel, who,” he says, “shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power”⁵⁹²³—it follows that, as He comes to inflict punishment, He must require “the flaming fire.” Thus on this consideration too we must, notwithstanding Marcion’s opposition, conclude that Christ belongs to a God who kindles the flames⁵⁹²⁴ (of vengeance), and therefore to the Creator, inasmuch as He takes vengeance on such as know not the Lord, that is, on the heathen. For he has mentioned separately “those who obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,”⁵⁹²⁵ whether they be sinners among Christians or among Jews. Now, to inflict punishment on the heathen, who very likely have never heard of the Gospel, is not the function of that God who is naturally unknown, and who is revealed nowhere else than in the Gospel, and therefore cannot be known by all men.⁵⁹²⁶ The Creator, however, ought to be known even by (the light of) nature, for He may be understood from His works, and may thereby become the object of a more widely spread knowledge. To *Him*, therefore, does

5920 Circumferri.

5921 Utriusque meriti: “of both the eternal sentences.”

5922 [2 Thess. i. 6–8.](#)

5923 [2 Thess. i. 8, 9.](#)

5924 Crematoris Dei.

5925 [2 Thess. i. 8.](#)

5926 Non omnibus scibilis.

it appertain to punish such as know not God, for none ought to be ignorant of Him. In the (apostle's) phrase, "From the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power,"⁵⁹²⁷ he uses the words of Isaiah who for the express reason makes the self-same Lord "arise to shake terribly the earth."⁵⁹²⁸ Well, but who is the man of sin, the son of perdition," who must first be revealed before the Lord comes; "who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; who is to sit in the temple of God, and boast himself as being God?"⁵⁹²⁹ According indeed to our view, he is Antichrist; as it is taught us in both the ancient and the new prophecies,⁵⁹³⁰ and especially by the Apostle John, who says that "already many false prophets are gone out into the world," the fore-runners of Antichrist, who deny that Christ is come in the flesh,⁵⁹³¹ and do not acknowledge⁵⁹³² Jesus (to be the Christ), meaning in God the Creator. According, however, to Marcion's view, it is really hard to know whether He might not be (after all) the Creator's Christ; because according to him *He* is not yet come. But whichever of the two it is, I want to know why he comes "in all power, and with lying signs and wonders?"⁵⁹³³ "Because," he says, "they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved; for which cause God shall send them an instinct of delusion⁵⁹³⁴ (to believe a lie), that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."⁵⁹³⁵ If therefore he be Antichrist, (as we hold), and *comes* according to the Creator's purpose, it must be God the Creator who sends him to fasten in their error those who did not believe the truth, that they might be saved; *His* likewise must be the truth and the salvation, who avenges (the contempt of) them by sending error as their substitute⁵⁹³⁶—that is, the Creator, to whom that very wrath is a fitting attribute,



5927 2 Thess. i. 9.

5928 Isa. ii. 19. The whole verse is to the point.

5929 2 Thess. ii. 3, 4.

5930 The prophets of the Old and the New Testament.

5931 1 John iv. 1–3.

5932 Solventes Jesum. This expression receives some explanation from the Vulgate version of 1 John iv. 3: "Et omnis spiritus qui solvit Jesum Christum ex Deo non est." From Irenæus, Vol. I., 443 (Harvey, ii. 89), we learn that the Gnostics *divided* Jesus from Christ: "Alterum quidem Jesum intelligunt, alterum autem Christum,"—an error which was met in the clause of the creed expressing faith in "*One Lord Jesus Christ.*" Grabe, after Socrates, *Hist. Eccles.* vii. 32, says that the oldest mss. of St. John's epistle read πᾶν πνεῦμα ὃ λύει τὸν Ἰησοῦν. If so, Tertullian must be regarded as combining the two readings, viz., that which we find in the received text and this just quoted. Thus Grabe. It would be better to say that T. read *ver. 2* as we have it, only omitting Ἰησοῦν; and in *ver. 3* read the old lection to which Socrates refers instead of πᾶν πνεῦμα ὃ μὴ ὁμολογεῖ.

5933 2 Thess. ii. 9.

5934 Instinctum fallaciæ.

5935 2 Thess. ii. 10–12.

5936 Summissu erroris.

which deceives with a lie those who are not captivated with truth. If, however, he is not Antichrist, as we suppose (him to be) then He is the Christ of the Creator, as Marcion will have it. In this case how happens it that he⁵⁹³⁷ can suborn the Creator's Christ to avenge his truth? But should he after all agree with us, that Antichrist is here meant, I must then likewise ask how it is that he finds Satan, an angel of the Creator, necessary to his purpose? Why, too, should *Antichrist* be slain by Him, whilst commissioned by the Creator to execute the function⁵⁹³⁸ of inspiring men with their love of untruth? In short, it is incontestable that the emissary,⁵⁹³⁹ and the truth, and the salvation belong to Him to whom also appertain the wrath, and the jealousy,⁵⁹⁴⁰ and "the sending of the strong delusion,"⁵⁹⁴¹ on those who despise and mock, as well as upon those who are ignorant of Him; and therefore even Marcion will now have to come down a step, and concede to us that his god is "a jealous god." (This being then an unquestionable position, I ask) which God has the greater right to be angry? He, as I suppose, who from the beginning of all things has given to man, as primary witnesses for the knowledge of Himself, nature in her (manifold) works, kindly providences, plagues,⁵⁹⁴² and indications (of His divinity),⁵⁹⁴³ but who in spite of all this evidence has not been acknowledged; or he who has been brought out to view⁵⁹⁴⁴ once for all in one only copy of the gospel—and even that without any sure authority—which actually makes no secret of proclaiming another god? Now He who has the right of inflicting the vengeance, has also sole claim to that which occasions⁵⁹⁴⁵ the vengeance, I mean the Gospel; (in other words,) both the truth and (its accompanying) salvation. The charge, that "if any would not work, neither should he eat,"⁵⁹⁴⁶ is in strict accordance with the precept of Him who ordered that "the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn should not be muzzled."⁵⁹⁴⁷

5937 Marcion, or rather *his* Christ, who on the hypothesis absurdly employs the Creator's Christ on the flagrantly inconsistent mission of avenging *his* truth, *i.e.* Marcionism.

5938 Habens fungi...Creatori.

5939 Angelum: the Antichrist *sent* by the Creator.

5940 Æmulatio.

5941 [2 Thess. ii. 11.](#)

5942 Plagis: "heavy strokes," in opposition to the previous "*beneficiis*."

5943 Prædicationibus: see [Rom. i. 20.](#)

5944 Productus est.

5945 Materia.

5946 [2 Thess. iii. 10.](#)

5947 [Deut. xxv. 4.](#)

Chapter XVII.—The Epistle to the Laodiceans. The Proper Designation is to the Ephesians. Recapitulation of All Things in Christ from the Beginning of the Creation. No Room for Marcion’s Christ Here. Numerous Parallels Between This Epistle and Passages in the Old Testament. The Prince of the Power of the Air, and the God of This World—Who? Creation and Regeneration the Work of One God. How Christ Has Made the Law Obsolete. A Vain Erasure of Marcion’s. The Apostles as Well as the Prophets from the Creator.

We have it on the true tradition⁵⁹⁴⁸ of the Church, that this epistle was sent to the Ephesians, not to the Laodiceans. Marcion, however, was very desirous of giving it the new title (of Laodicean),⁵⁹⁴⁹ as if he were extremely accurate in investigating such a point. But of what consequence are the titles, since in writing to a certain church the apostle did in fact write to all? It is certain that, whoever they were to whom he wrote,⁵⁹⁵⁰ he declared Him to be God in Christ with whom all things agree which are predicted.⁵⁹⁵¹ Now, to what god will most suitably belong all those things which relate to “that good pleasure, which *God* hath purposed in the mystery of His will, that in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might *recapitulate*” (if I may so say, according to the exact meaning of the Greek word⁵⁹⁵²) “all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth,”⁵⁹⁵³ but to Him whose are all things from their beginning, yea the beginning itself too; from whom issue the times and the dispensation of the fulness of times, according to which all things up to the very first are gathered up in Christ? What *beginning*, however, has the other god; that is to say, how can anything proceed from him, who has no work to show? And if there be no beginning, how can there be *times*? If no times, what *fulness* of times can there be? And if no fulness, what *dispensation*? Indeed, what has he ever done on earth, that any long dispensation of times to be fulfilled can be put to his account, for the accomplishment of all things in Christ, even of things in heaven? Nor can we possibly suppose that any things whatever have been at any time done in heaven by any other God than Him by whom, as all men allow, all things have been done on earth. Now, if it is impossible for all these things from the beginning to be reckoned to any other God than the Creator, who will believe that an alien god has recapitulated them in an alien Christ, instead of their own proper Author



5948 Veritati.

5949 Titulum interpolare gestiit: or, “of corrupting its title.”

5950 Certe tamen.

5951 For a discussion on the title of this epistle in a succinct shape, the reader is referred to Dean Alford’s *Gr. Test.* vol. iii. *Prolegomena*, chap. ii. sec. 2.

5952 ἀνακεφαλαιώσασθαι, “to sum up into a head.”

5953 [Eph. i. 9, 10.](#)

in His own Christ? If, again, they belong to the Creator, they must needs be separate from the other god; and if separate, then opposed to him. But then how can opposites be gathered together into him by whom they are in short destroyed? Again, what Christ do the following words announce, when *the apostle* says: “That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ?”⁵⁹⁵⁴ Now who could have first trusted—*i.e. previously* trusted⁵⁹⁵⁵—in God, before His advent, except the Jews to whom Christ was previously announced, from the beginning? He who was thus *foretold*, was also *foretrusted*. Hence the apostle refers the statement to himself, that is, to the Jews, in order that he may draw a distinction with respect to the Gentiles, (when he goes on to say:) “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel (of your salvation); in whom ye believed, and were sealed with His Holy Spirit of promise.”⁵⁹⁵⁶ Of what promise? That which was made through Joel: “In the last days will I pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh,”⁵⁹⁵⁷ that is, on all nations. Therefore the Spirit and the Gospel will be found in the Christ, who was *foretrusted*, because *foretold*. Again, “the Father of glory”⁵⁹⁵⁸ is He whose Christ, when ascending to heaven, is celebrated as “the King of Glory” in the Psalm: “Who is this King of Glory? the Lord of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.”⁵⁹⁵⁹ From Him also is besought “the spirit of wisdom,”⁵⁹⁶⁰ at whose disposal is enumerated that sevenfold distribution of the spirit of grace by Isaiah.⁵⁹⁶¹ He likewise will grant “the enlightenment of the eyes of the understanding,”⁵⁹⁶² who has also enriched our natural eyes with light; to whom, moreover, the blindness of the people is offensive: “And who is blind, but my servants?...yea, the servants of God have become blind.”⁵⁹⁶³ In His gift, too, are “the riches (of the glory) of His inheritance in the saints,”⁵⁹⁶⁴ who promised such an inheritance in the call of the Gentiles: “Ask of me, and I will give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance.”⁵⁹⁶⁵ It was He who “wrought in Christ His mighty power, by raising Him from the dead, and setting Him at His own right hand, and putting all things under His feet”⁵⁹⁶⁶—even the same who said: “Sit Thou on my right hand, until

5954 Eph. i. 12.

5955 He explains “*præsperasse* by *ante sperasse*.”

5956 Eph. i. 13.

5957 Joel ii. 28.

5958 Eph. ii. 17.

5959 Ps. xxiv. 10.

5960 Eph. i. 17.

5961 Isa. xi. 2.

5962 Eph. i. 18.

5963 Isa. xlii. 19 (Sept.).

5964 Eph. i. 18.

5965 Ps. ii. 8.

5966 Eph. i. 19–22.

I make Thine enemies Thy footstool.”⁵⁹⁶⁷ For in another passage the Spirit says to the Father concerning the Son: “Thou hast put all things under His feet.”⁵⁹⁶⁸ Now, if from all these facts which are found in the Creator there is yet to be deduced⁵⁹⁶⁹ another god and another Christ, let us go in quest of the Creator. I suppose, forsooth,⁵⁹⁷⁰ we find Him, when he speaks of such as “were dead in trespasses and sins, wherein they had walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, who worketh in the children of disobedience.”⁵⁹⁷¹ But Marcion must not here interpret the world as meaning the God of the world.⁵⁹⁷² For a creature bears no resemblance to the Creator; the thing made, none to its Maker; the world, none to God. He, moreover, who is the Prince of the power of the ages must not be thought to be called the prince of the power of the air; for He who is chief over the higher powers derives no title from the lower powers, although these, too, may be ascribed to Him. Nor, again, can He possibly seem to be the instigator⁵⁹⁷³ of that unbelief which He Himself had rather to endure at the hand of the Jews and the Gentiles alike. We may therefore simply conclude that⁵⁹⁷⁴ these designations are unsuited to the Creator. There is another being to whom they are more applicable—and the apostle knew very well who that was. Who then is he? Undoubtedly he who has raised up “children of disobedience” against the Creator Himself ever since he took possession of that “air” of His; even as the prophet makes him say: “I will set my throne *above the stars*;...*I will go up above the clouds*; I will be like the Most High.”⁵⁹⁷⁵ This must mean the devil, whom in another passage (since such will they there have the apostle’s meaning to be) we shall recognize in the appellation *the god of this world*.⁵⁹⁷⁶ For he has filled the whole world with the lying pretence of his own divinity. To be sure,⁵⁹⁷⁷ if *he* had not existed, we might then possibly have applied these descriptions to the Creator. But the apostle, too, had lived in Judaism; and when he parenthetically observed of the sins (of that period of his life), “in which also we all had our conversation in times past,”⁵⁹⁷⁸ he must not be understood to indicate that



5967 Ps. cx. 1.

5968 Ps. viii. 7.

5969 Infertur.

5970 Plane.

5971 Eph. ii. 1, 2.

5972 Deo mundi: i.e. the God who made the world.

5973 Operator: in reference to the expression in ver. 2, “who now *worketh*,” etc.

5974 Sufficit igitur si.

5975 Isa. xiv. 13, 14. An inexact quotation from the *Septuagint*.

5976 On this and another meaning given to the phrase in 2 Cor. iv. 4, see above, chap. xi.

5977 Plane: an ironical particle here.

5978 Eph. ii. 3.

the Creator was the lord of sinful men, and the prince of this air; but as meaning that in his Judaism he had been one of the children of disobedience, having the devil as his instigator—when he persecuted the church and the Christ of the Creator. Therefore he says: “We also were the children of wrath,” but “by nature.”⁵⁹⁷⁹ Let the heretic, however, not contend that, because the Creator called the Jews *children*, therefore the Creator is the lord of wrath.⁵⁹⁸⁰ For when (the apostle) says, “We were by nature the children of wrath,” inasmuch as the Jews were not the Creator’s children *by nature*, but by the election of their fathers, he (must have) referred their being children of wrath to nature, and not to the Creator, adding this at last, “even as others,”⁵⁹⁸¹ who, of course, were not children of God. It is manifest that sins, and lusts of the flesh, and unbelief, and anger, are ascribed to the common nature of all mankind, the devil however leading that nature astray,⁵⁹⁸² which he has already infected with the implanted germ of sin. “We,” says he, “are His workmanship, created in Christ.”⁵⁹⁸³ It is one thing to make (as a workman), another thing to create. But he assigns both to One. Man is the workmanship of the Creator. He therefore who made man (at first), created him also in Christ. As touching the substance of nature, He “made” him; as touching the work of grace, He “created” him. Look also at what follows in connection with these words: “Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called uncircumcision by that which has the name of circumcision in the flesh made by the hand—that at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise,⁵⁹⁸⁴ having no hope, and without God in the world.”⁵⁹⁸⁵ Now, without what God and without what Christ were these Gentiles? Surely, without Him to whom the commonwealth⁵⁹⁸⁶ of Israel belonged, and the covenants and the promise. “But now in Christ,” says he, “ye who were sometimes far off are made nigh by His blood.”⁵⁹⁸⁷ From whom were they far off before? From the (privileges) whereof he speaks above, even from the Christ of the Creator, from the commonwealth of Israel, from the covenants, from the hope of the promise, from God Himself. Since this is the case, the Gentiles are consequently now in Christ made nigh to these (blessings), from which they were once far off. But if we are in Christ brought so very nigh to the commonwealth of Israel,

5979 Eph. ii. 3.

5980 In Marcion’s sense.

5981 Eph. ii. 3.

5982 Captante.

5983 Eph. ii. 10.

5984 Literally, “the covenants and their promise.”

5985 Eph. ii. 11, 12.

5986 Conversatio: rather, “intercourse with Israel.”

5987 Eph. ii. 13.

which comprises the religion of the divine Creator, and to the covenants and to the promise, yea to their very God Himself, it is quite ridiculous (to suppose that) the Christ of the other god has brought us to this proximity to the Creator from afar. The apostle had in mind that it had been predicted concerning the call of the Gentiles from their distant alienation in words like these: “They who were far off from me have come to my righteousness.”⁵⁹⁸⁸ For the Creator’s righteousness no less than His peace was announced in Christ, as we have often shown already. Therefore he says: “He is our peace, who hath made both one”⁵⁹⁸⁹—that is, the Jewish nation and the Gentile world. What is near, and what was far off now that “the middle wall has been broken down” of their “enmity,” (are made one) “in His flesh.”⁵⁹⁹⁰ But Marcion erased the pronoun *His*, that he might make the enmity refer to flesh, as if (the apostle spoke) of a carnal enmity, instead of the enmity which was a rival to Christ.⁵⁹⁹¹ And thus you have (as I have said elsewhere) exhibited the stupidity of Pontus, rather than the adroitness of a Marrucinian,⁵⁹⁹² for you here deny him *flesh* to whom in the verse above you allowed *blood*! Since, however, He has made the law obsolete⁵⁹⁹³ by His own precepts, even by Himself fulfilling the law (for superfluous is, “Thou shalt not commit adultery,” when He says, “Thou shalt not look on a woman to lust after her;” superfluous also is, “Thou shalt do no murder,” when He says, “Thou shalt not speak evil of thy neighbour,”) it is impossible to make an adversary of the law out of one who so completely promotes it.⁵⁹⁹⁴ “For to create⁵⁹⁹⁵ in Himself of twain,” for He who had *made* is also the same who *creates* (just as we have found it stated above: “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ *Jesus*”),⁵⁹⁹⁶ “one new man, making peace” (really new, and really man—no phantom—but new, and newly born of a virgin by the Spirit of God), “that He might reconcile both unto God”⁵⁹⁹⁷ (even the God whom both races had offended—both Jew and Gentile), “in one body,” says he, “having in it slain the enmity by the cross.”⁵⁹⁹⁸ Thus we find from this passage also, that there was in Christ a fleshly body, such as was able to endure the cross. “When, therefore, He came and preached peace to them that were near and to them which were afar off,” we



5988 This is rather an allusion to, than a quotation of, *Isa. xlvi. 12, 13.*

5989 [Eph. ii. 14.](#)

5990 [Eph. ii. 15.](#)

5991 “The law of commandments contained in ordinances.”

5992 He expresses the proverbial adage very tersely, “non Marrucine, sed Pontice.”

5993 *Vacuum fecit.*

5994 *Ex adjutore.*

5995 *Conderet:* “create,” to keep up the distinction between this and *facere*, “to make.”

5996 [Eph. ii. 10.](#)

5997 [Eph. ii. 15–16.](#)

5998 [Eph. ii. 16.](#)

both obtained “access to the Father,” being “now no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God” (even of Him from whom, as we have shown above, we were aliens, and placed far off), “built upon the foundation of the apostles”⁵⁹⁹⁹—(the apostle added), “and the prophets;” these words, however, the heretic erased, forgetting that the Lord had set in His Church not only apostles, but prophets also. He feared, no doubt, that our building was to stand in Christ upon the foundation of the ancient prophets,⁶⁰⁰⁰ since the apostle himself never fails to build us up everywhere with (the words of) the prophets. For whence did he learn to call Christ “the chief corner-stone,”⁶⁰⁰¹ but from the figure given him in the Psalm: “The stone which the builders rejected is become the head (stone) of the corner?”⁶⁰⁰²

5999 Eph. ii. 17–20.

6000 “Because, if our building as Christians rested in part upon that foundation, our God, and the God of the Jews must be the same, which Marcion denied” (Lardner).

6001 Eph. ii. 20.

6002 Ps. cxviii. 22.

Chapter XVIII.—Another Foolish Erasure of Marcion's Exposed. Certain Figurative Expressions of the Apostle, Suggested by the Language of the Old Testament. Collation of Many Passages of This Epistle, with Precepts and Statements in the Pentateuch, the Psalms, and the Prophets. All Alike Teach Us the Will and Purpose of the Creator.

As our heretic is so fond of his pruning-knife, I do not wonder when syllables are expunged by his hand, seeing that entire pages are usually the matter on which he practises his effacing process. The apostle declares that to himself, “less than the least of all saints, was the grace given” of enlightening all men as to “what was the fellowship of the mystery, which during the ages had been hid in God, who created all things.”⁶⁰⁰³ The heretic erased the preposition *in*, and made the clause run thus: (“what is the fellowship of the mystery) which hath for ages been hidden from the God who created all things.”⁶⁰⁰⁴ The falsification, however, is flagrantly⁶⁰⁰⁵ absurd. For the apostle goes on to infer (from his own statement): “in order that unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might become known through the church the manifold wisdom of God.”⁶⁰⁰⁶ *Whose* principalities and powers does he mean? If the Creator's, how does it come to pass that such a God as He could have meant His wisdom to be displayed to the principalities and powers, but not to Himself? For surely no principalities could possibly have understood anything without their sovereign Lord. Or if (the apostle) did not mention God in this passage, on the ground that He (as their chief) is Himself reckoned among these (principalities), then he would have plainly said that the mystery had been hidden from the principalities and powers of Him who had created all things, including Him amongst them. But if he states that it was hidden from them, he must needs be understood⁶⁰⁰⁷ as having meant that it was manifest to Him. *From God*, therefore, the mystery was not hidden; but it was hidden *in God*, the Creator of all things, from His principalities and powers. For “who hath known the mind of the Lord, or who hath been His counsellor?”⁶⁰⁰⁸ Caught in this trap, the heretic probably changed the



6003 Eph. iii. 8, 9.

6004 The passage of St. Paul, as Tertullian expresses it, “Quæ dispensatio sacramenti occulti ab ævis in Deo, qui omnia condidit.” According to Marcion's alteration, the latter part runs, “*Occulti ab ævis Deo, qui omnia condidit.*” The original is, Τίς ἡ οἰκονομία τοῦ μυστηρίου τοῦ ἀποκεκρυμμένου ἀπὸ τῶν αἰώνων ἐν τῷ Θεῷ (compare Col. iii. 3) τῷ τὰ πάντα κτίσαντι. Marcion's removal of the ἐν has no warrant of ms. authority; it upsets St. Paul's doctrine, as attested in other passages, and destroys the grammatical structure.

6005 Emicat.

6006 Eph. iii. 10.

6007 Debeat.

6008 Isa. xl. 13.

passage, with the view of saying that *his* god wished to make known to his principalities and powers the fellowship of his own mystery, of which God, who created all things, had been ignorant. But what was the use of his obtruding this ignorance of *the Creator*, who was a stranger to the superior god,⁶⁰⁰⁹ and far enough removed from him, when even his own servants had known nothing about him? To the Creator, however, the future was well known. Then why was not that also known to Him, which had to be revealed beneath His heaven, and on His earth? From this, therefore, there arises a confirmation of what we have already laid down. For since the Creator was sure to know, some time or other, that hidden mystery of the superior god, even on the supposition that the true reading was (as Marcion has it)—“hidden from the God who created all things”—he ought then to have expressed the conclusion thus: “in order that the manifold wisdom of God might be made known to Him, and then to the principalities and powers of God, whosoever He might be, with whom the Creator was destined to share their knowledge.” So palpable is the erasure in this passage, when thus read, consistently with its own true bearing. I, on my part, now wish to engage with you in a discussion on the allegorical expressions of the apostle. What figures of speech could the novel god have found in the prophets (fit for himself)? “He led captivity captive,” says the apostle.⁶⁰¹⁰ With what arms? In what conflicts? From the devastation of what country? From the overthrow of what city? What women, what children, what princes did the Conqueror throw into chains? For when by David Christ is sung as “girded with His sword upon His thigh,”⁶⁰¹¹ or by Isaiah as “taking away the spoils of Samaria and the power of Damascus,”⁶⁰¹² you make Him out to be⁶⁰¹³ really and truly a warrior confest to the eye.⁶⁰¹⁴ Learn then now, that His is a spiritual armour and warfare, since you have already discovered that the captivity is spiritual, in order that you may further learn that *this* also belongs to Him, even because the apostle derived the mention of the captivity from the same prophets as suggested to him his precepts likewise: “Putting away lying,” (says he,) “speak every man truth with his neighbour;”⁶⁰¹⁵ and again, using the very words in which the Psalm⁶⁰¹⁶ expresses his meaning, (he says,) “Be ye angry, and sin not;”⁶⁰¹⁷ “Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.”⁶⁰¹⁸ “Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of dark-

6009 Marcion's god, of course.

6010 Eph. iv. 8 and Ps. lxxviii. 19.

6011 Ps. xlv. 3.

6012 Isa. viii. 4.

6013 Extundis.

6014 See above, book iii. chap. xiii. and xiv. p. 332.

6015 Eph. iv. 25.

6016 Ps. iv. 4.

6017 Eph. iv. 26.

6018 Eph. iv. 26.

ness;⁶⁰¹⁹ for (in the Psalm it is written,) “With the holy man thou shalt be holy, and with the perverse thou shalt be perverse;”⁶⁰²⁰ and, “Thou shalt put away evil from among you.”⁶⁰²¹ Again, “Go ye out from the midst of them; touch not the unclean thing; separate yourselves, ye that bear the vessels of the Lord.”⁶⁰²² (The apostle says further:) “Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess,”⁶⁰²³—a precept which is suggested by the passage (of the prophet), where the seducers of the consecrated (Nazarites) to drunkenness are rebuked: “Ye gave wine to my holy ones to drink.”⁶⁰²⁴ This prohibition from drink was given also to the high priest Aaron and his sons, “when they went into the holy place.”⁶⁰²⁵ The command, to “sing to the Lord with psalms and hymns,”⁶⁰²⁶ comes suitably from him who knew that those who “drank wine with drums and psalteries” were blamed by God.⁶⁰²⁷ Now, when I find to what God belong these precepts, whether in their germ or their development, I have no difficulty in knowing to whom the apostle also belongs. But he declares that “wives ought to be in subjection to their husbands:”⁶⁰²⁸ what reason does he give for this? “Because,” says he, “the husband is the head of the wife.”⁶⁰²⁹ Pray tell me, Marcion, does your god build up the authority of his law on the work of the Creator? This, however, is a comparative trifle; for he actually derives from the same source the condition of his Christ and his Church; for he says: “even as Christ is the head of the Church;”⁶⁰³⁰ and again, in like manner: “He who loveth his wife, loveth his own flesh, even as Christ loved the Church.”⁶⁰³¹ You see how your Christ and your Church are put in comparison with the work of the Creator. How much honour is given to the flesh in the name of the church! “No man,” says the apostle, “ever yet hated his own flesh” (except, of course, Marcion alone), “but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord doth the Church.”⁶⁰³² But you are the only man that hates his flesh, for you rob it of its resurrection. It will be only right that you should hate the



6019 Eph. v. 11.

6020 Ps. xviii. 26.

6021 Deut. xxi. 21, quoted also in 1 Cor. v. 13.

6022 Isa. lii. 11, quoted in 2 Cor. vi. 17.

6023 Eph. v. 18.

6024 Amos ii. 12.

6025 Lev. x. 9.

6026 Eph. v. 19.

6027 Isa. v. 11, 12.

6028 Eph. v. 22, 24.

6029 Eph. v. 23.

6030 Eph. v. 23.

6031 Eph. v. 25, 28.

6032 Eph. v. 29.

Church also, because it is loved by Christ on the same principle.⁶⁰³³ Yea, Christ loved the flesh even as the Church. For no man will love the picture of his wife without taking care of it, and honouring it and crowning it. The likeness partakes with the reality in the privileged honour. I shall now endeavour, from my point of view,⁶⁰³⁴ to prove that the same God is (the God) of the man⁶⁰³⁵ and of Christ, of the woman and of the Church, of the flesh and the spirit, by the apostle's help who applies the Creator's injunction, and adds even a comment on it: "For this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother, (and shall be joined unto his wife), and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery."⁶⁰³⁶ In passing,⁶⁰³⁷ (I would say that) it is enough for me that the works of the Creator are great mysteries⁶⁰³⁸ in the estimation of the apostle, although they are so vilely esteemed by the heretics. "But I am speaking," says he, "of Christ and the Church."⁶⁰³⁹ This he says in explanation of the mystery, not for its disruption. He shows us that the mystery was prefigured by Him who is also the author of the mystery. Now what is Marcion's opinion? The Creator could not possibly have furnished figures to an unknown god, or, if a known one, an adversary to Himself. The superior god, in fact, ought to have borrowed nothing from the inferior; he was bound rather to annihilate Him. "Children should obey their parents."⁶⁰⁴⁰ Now, although Marcion has erased (the next clause), "which is the first commandment with promise,"⁶⁰⁴¹ still the law says plainly, "Honour thy father and thy mother."⁶⁰⁴² Again, (the apostle writes:) "Parents, bring up your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord."⁶⁰⁴³ For you have heard how it was said to them of old time: "Ye shall relate these things to your children; and your children in like manner to their children."⁶⁰⁴⁴ Of what use are two gods to me, when the discipline is but one? If there must be two, I mean to follow Him who was the first to teach the lesson. But as our struggle lies against "the rulers of this world,"⁶⁰⁴⁵ what a host

6033 Proinde.

6034 Ego.

6035 Masculi.

6036 [Eph. v. 31, 32.](#)

6037 Inter ista.

6038 Magna sacramenta.

6039 [Eph. v. 32.](#)

6040 [Eph. vi. 1.](#)

6041 [Eph. vi. 2.](#) "He did this (says Lardner) in order that the Mosaic law might not be thought to be thus established."

6042 [Ex. xx. 12.](#)

6043 [Eph. vi. 4.](#)

6044 [Ex. x. 2.](#)

6045 [Eph. vi. 12.](#)

of Creator Gods there must be!⁶⁰⁴⁶ For why should I not insist upon this point here, that he ought to have mentioned but *one* “ruler of this world,” if he meant only the Creator to be the being to whom belonged all the powers which he previously mentioned? Again, when in the preceding verse he bids us “put on the whole armour of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil,”⁶⁰⁴⁷ does he not show that all the things which he mentions after the devil’s name really belong to the devil—“the principalities and the powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this world,”⁶⁰⁴⁸ which we also ascribe to the devil’s authority? Else, if “the devil” means the Creator, who will be the devil in the Creator’s dispensation?⁶⁰⁴⁹ As there are two gods, must there also be two devils, and a plurality of powers and rulers of this world? But how is the Creator both a devil and a god at the same time, when the devil is not at once both god and devil? For either they are both of them gods, if both of them are devils; or else He who is God is not also devil, as neither is he god who is the devil. I want to know indeed by what perversion⁶⁰⁵⁰ the word *devil* is at all applicable to the Creator. Perhaps he perverted some purpose of the superior god—conduct such as He experienced Himself from the archangel, who lied indeed for the purpose. For He did not forbid (our first parents) a taste of the miserable tree,⁶⁰⁵¹ from any apprehension that they would become gods; His prohibition was meant to prevent their dying after the transgression. But “the spiritual wickedness”⁶⁰⁵² did not signify the Creator, because of the apostle’s additional description, “in heavenly places;”⁶⁰⁵³ for the apostle was quite aware that “spiritual wickedness” had been at work in heavenly places, when angels were entrapped into sin by the daughters of men.⁶⁰⁵⁴ But how happened it that (the apostle) resorted to ambiguous descriptions, and I know not what obscure enigmas, for the purpose of disparaging⁶⁰⁵⁵ the Creator, when he displayed to the Church such constancy and plainness of speech in “making known the mystery of the gospel for which he was an ambassador in bonds,” owing



6046 An ironical allusion to Marcion’s interpretation, which he has considered in a former chapter, of the title *God of this world*.

6047 [Eph. vi. 11.](#)

6048 [Eph. vi. 12.](#)

6049 Apud Creatorem.

6050 Ex qua delatura.

6051 Illius arbusculæ.

6052 Spiritalia nequitiae: “wicked spirits.”

6053 [Eph. vi. 12.](#)

6054 [Gen. vi. 1–4.](#) See also Tertullian, *De Idol.* 9; *De Habit. Mul.* 2; *De Cultu Femin.* 10; *De Vel. Virg.* 7; *Apolog.* 22. See also Augustin, *De Civit. Dei.* xv. 23.

6055 Ut taxaret. Of course he alludes to Marcion’s absurd exposition of the [12th verse](#), in applying St. Paul’s description of wicked spirits to the Creator.

to his liberty in preaching—and actually requested (the Ephesians) to pray to God that this “open-mouthed utterance” might be continued to him?⁶⁰⁵⁶

6056 Eph. vi. 19, 20.

Chapter XIX.—The Epistle to the Colossians. Time the Criterion of Truth and Heresy. Application of the Canon. The Image of the Invisible God Explained. Pre-Existence of Our Christ in the Creator's Ancient Dispensations. What is Included in the Fulness of Christ. The Epicurean Character of Marcion's God. The Catholic Truth in Opposition Thereto. The Law is to Christ What the Shadow is to the Substance.

I am accustomed in my prescription against all heresies, to fix my compendious criterion⁶⁰⁵⁷ (of truth) in the testimony of *time*; claiming *priority* therein as our rule, and alleging *lateness* to be the characteristic of every heresy. This shall now be proved even by the apostle, when he says: "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; which is come unto you, as it is unto all the world."⁶⁰⁵⁸ For if, even at that time, the tradition of the gospel had spread everywhere, how much more now! Now, if it is our gospel which has spread everywhere, rather than any heretical gospel, much less Marcion's, which only dates from the reign of Antoninus,⁶⁰⁵⁹ then ours will be the gospel of the apostles. But should Marcion's gospel succeed in filling the whole world, it would not even in that case be entitled to the character of apostolic. For this quality, it will be evident, can only belong to that gospel which was the first to fill the world; in other words, to the gospel of that God who of old declared this of its promulgation: "Their sound is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."⁶⁰⁶⁰ He calls Christ "the image of the invisible God."⁶⁰⁶¹ We in like manner say that the Father of Christ is invisible, for we know that it was the Son who was seen in ancient times (whenever any appearance was vouchsafed to men in the name of God) as the image of (the Father) Himself. He must not be regarded, however, as making any difference between a visible and an invisible God; because long before he wrote this we find a description of our God to this effect: "No man can see the Lord, and live."⁶⁰⁶² If Christ is not "the first-begotten before every creature,"⁶⁰⁶³ as that "Word of God by whom all things were made, and without whom nothing was made;"⁶⁰⁶⁴ if "all things were" not "in Him created, whether in heaven

6057 Compendium figure.

6058 Col. i. 5, 6.

6059 Antoniniani Marcionis: see above in book i. chap. xix.

6060 Ps. xix. 4.

6061 Col. i. 15.

6062 Ex. xxxiii. 20.

6063 Col. i. 15. Our author's "primogenitus conditionis" is St. Paul's πρωτότοκος πάσης κτίσεως, for the meaning of which see Bp. Ellicott, *in loc.*

6064 John i. 3.

or on earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions, or principalities, or powers;” if “all things were” not “created by Him and for Him” (for these truths Marcion ought not to allow concerning Him), then the apostle could not have so positively laid it down, that “He is before all.”⁶⁰⁶⁵ For how is He before all, if He is not before *all things*?⁶⁰⁶⁶ How, again, is He before all things, if He is not “the first-born of every creature”—if He is not the Word of the Creator?⁶⁰⁶⁷ Now how will he be proved to have been before all things, who appeared after all things? Who can tell whether he had a prior existence, when he has found no proof that he had any existence at all? In what way also could it have “pleased (the Father) that in Him should all fulness dwell?”⁶⁰⁶⁸ For, to begin with, what fulness is that which is not comprised of the constituents which Marcion has removed from it,—even those that were “created in Christ, whether in heaven or on earth,” whether angels or men? which is not made of the things that are visible and invisible? which consists not of thrones and dominions and principalities and powers? If, on the other hand,⁶⁰⁶⁹ our false apostles and Judaizing gossellers⁶⁰⁷⁰ have introduced all these things out of their own stores, and Marcion has applied them to constitute the fulness of his own god, (this hypothesis, absurd though it be, alone would justify him;) for how, on any other supposition,⁶⁰⁷¹ could the rival and the destroyer of the Creator have been willing that His fulness should dwell in his Christ? To whom, again, does He “reconcile all things by Himself, making peace by the blood of His cross,”⁶⁰⁷² but to Him whom those very things had altogether⁶⁰⁷³ offended, against whom they had rebelled by transgression, (but) to whom they had at last returned?⁶⁰⁷⁴ *Conciliated* they might have been to a strange god; but *reconciled* they could not possibly have been to any other than their own God. Accordingly, ourselves “who were sometime alienated and enemies in our mind by wicked works”⁶⁰⁷⁵ does He reconcile to the Creator, against whom we had committed offence—worshipping the creature to the prejudice of the Creator. As, however, he says elsewhere,⁶⁰⁷⁶ that the Church is the body of Christ, so here



6065 Ante omnes.

6066 Ante amina.

6067 *Creatoris* is our author’s word.

6068 [Col. i. 19.](#)

6069 Aut si.

6070 Evangelizatores.

6071 Ceterum quale.

6072 [Col. i. 20.](#)

6073 “Una ipsa” is Oehler’s reading instead of *universa*.

6074 Cujus novissime fuerant.

6075 [Col. i. 21.](#)

6076 [Eph. i. 23.](#)

also (the apostle) declares that he “fills up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in his flesh for His body’s sake, which is the Church.”⁶⁰⁷⁷ But you must not on this account suppose that on every mention of His body the term is only a metaphor, instead of meaning real flesh. For he says above that we are “reconciled in His body through death;”⁶⁰⁷⁸ meaning, of course, that He died in that body wherein death was possible through the flesh: (therefore he adds,) not *through the Church*⁶⁰⁷⁹ (*per ecclesiam*), but expressly *for the sake of the Church* (*propter ecclesiam*), exchanging body for body—one of flesh for a spiritual one. When, again, he warns them to “beware of subtle words and philosophy,” as being “a vain deceit,” such as is “after the rudiments of the world” (not understanding thereby the mundane fabric of sky and earth, but worldly learning, and “the tradition of men,” subtle in their speech and their philosophy),⁶⁰⁸⁰ it would be tedious, and the proper subject of a separate work, to show how in this sentence (of the apostle’s) all heresies are condemned, on the ground of their consisting of the resources of subtle speech and the rules of philosophy. But (once for all) let Marcion know that the principle term of his creed comes from the school of Epicurus, implying that the Lord is stupid and indifferent;⁶⁰⁸¹ wherefore he refuses to say that He is an object to be feared. Moreover, from the porch of the Stoics he brings out *matter*, and places it on a par with the Divine Creator.⁶⁰⁸² He also denies the resurrection of the flesh,—a truth which none of the schools of philosophy agreed together to hold.⁶⁰⁸³ But how remote is our (Catholic) verity from the artifices of this heretic, when it dreads to arouse the anger of God, and firmly believes that He produced all things out of nothing, and promises to us a restoration from the grave of the same flesh (that died) and holds without a blush that Christ was born of the virgin’s womb! At this, philosophers, and heretics, and the very heathen, laugh and jeer. For “God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise”⁶⁰⁸⁴—that God, no doubt, who in reference to this very dispensation of His

6077 Col. i. 24.

6078 Col. i. 22.

6079 As if only in a *metaphorical* body, in which sense the Church is “His body.”

6080 Col. ii. 8.

6081 “Dominum inferens *hebetem*,” with which may be compared Cicero (*De Divin.* ii. 50, 103): “Videsne Epicurum quem hebetem et rudem dicere solent Stoici...qui negat, quidquam deos nec alieni curare, nec sui.” The *otiose* and *inert* character of the god of Epicurus is referred to by Tertullian not unfrequently; see above, in book iv. chap. xv.; *Apolog.* 47, and *Ad Nationes*, ii. 2; whilst in *De Anima*, 3, he characterizes the philosophy of Epicurus by a similar term: “Prout aut Platonis honor, aut Zenonis vigor, aut Aristotelis tenor, aut *Epicuri stupor*, aut Heracliti mæror, aut Empedoclis furor persuaserunt.”

6082 The Stoical dogma of the *eternity* of matter and its *equality* with God was also held by Hermogenes; see his *Adv. Hermogenem*, c. 4, “Materiam parem Deo infert.”

6083 Pliny, *Nat. Hist.* vii. 55, refers to the peculiar opinion of Democritus on this subject (Fr. Junius).

6084 1 Cor. i. 27.

threatened long before that He would “destroy the wisdom of the wise.”⁶⁰⁸⁵ Thanks to this simplicity of truth, so opposed to the subtlety and vain deceit of philosophy, we cannot possibly have any relish for such perverse opinions. Then, if God “quickens us together with Christ, forgiving us our trespasses,”⁶⁰⁸⁶ we cannot suppose that sins are forgiven by Him against whom, as having been all along unknown, they could not have been committed. Now tell me, Marcion, what is your opinion of the apostle’s language, when he says, “Let no man judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a holy day, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath, which is a shadow of things to come, but the body is of Christ?”⁶⁰⁸⁷ We do not now treat of the law, further than (to remark) that the apostle here teaches clearly how it has been abolished, even by passing from shadow to substance—that is, from figurative types to the reality, which is Christ. The shadow, therefore, is His to whom belongs the body also; in other words, the law is His, and so is Christ. If you separate the law and Christ, assigning one to one god and the other to another, it is the same as if you were to attempt to separate the shadow from the body of which it is the shadow. Manifestly Christ has relation to the law, if the body has to its shadow. But when he blames those who alleged visions of angels as their authority for saying that men must abstain from meats—“you must not touch, you must not taste”—in a voluntary humility, (at the same time) “vainly puffed up in the fleshly mind, and not holding the Head,”⁶⁰⁸⁸ (the apostle) does not in these terms attack the law or Moses, as if it was at the suggestion of superstitious angels that he had enacted his prohibition of sundry aliments. For Moses had evidently received the law from God. When, therefore, he speaks of their “following the commandments and doctrines of men,”⁶⁰⁸⁹ he refers to the conduct of those persons who “held not the Head,” even Him in whom all things are gathered together;⁶⁰⁹⁰ for they are all recalled to Christ, and concentrated in Him as their initiating principle⁶⁰⁹¹—even the meats and drinks which were indifferent in their nature. All the rest of his precepts,⁶⁰⁹² as we have shown sufficiently, when treating of them as they occurred in another epistle,⁶⁰⁹³ emanated from the Creator, who, while predicting that “old things were to pass away,” and that He would “make all things new,”⁶⁰⁹⁴ com-



6085 [Isa. xxix. 14](#), quoted [1 Cor. i. 19](#); comp. [Jer. viii. 9](#) and [Job v. 12, 13](#).

6086 [Col. ii. 13](#).

6087 [Col. ii. 16, 17](#).

6088 [Col. ii. 18, 19, 21](#).

6089 [Col. ii. 22](#).

6090 [Recensentur: Eph. i. 10](#).

6091 [Initium](#).

6092 [Contained in Vol. iii. and iv.](#)

6093 [In the Epistle to the Laodiceans or Ephesians](#); see his remarks in the preceding chapter of this book v.

6094 [Isa. xliii. 18, 19, and lxv. 17](#); [2 Cor. v. 17](#).

manded men “to break up fresh ground for themselves,”⁶⁰⁹⁵ and thereby taught them even then to put off the old man and put on the new.

⁶⁰⁹⁵ Jer. iv. 3. This and the passage of Isaiah just quoted are also cited together above, book iv. chap. i. and ii. p. 345.

Chapter XX.—The Epistle to the Philippians. The Variances Amongst the Preachers of Christ No Argument that There Was More Than One Only Christ. St. Paul's Phrases—Form of a Servant, Likeness, and Fashion of a Man—No Sanction of Docetism. No Antithesis (Such as Marcion Alleged) in the God of Judaism and the God of the Gospel Deducible from Certain Contrasts Mentioned in This Epistle. A Parallel with a Passage in Genesis. The Resurrection of the Body, and the Change Thereof.

When (the apostle) mentions the several motives of those who were preaching the gospel, how that some, "waxing confident by his bonds, were more fearless in speaking the word," while others "preached Christ even out of envy and strife, and again others out of goodwill," many also "out of love," and certain "out of contention," and some "in rivalry to himself,"⁶⁰⁹⁶ he had a favourable opportunity, no doubt,⁶⁰⁹⁷ of taxing what they preached with a diversity of doctrine, as if it were no less than this which caused so great a variance in their tempers. But while he exposes these tempers as the sole cause of the diversity, he avoids inculcating the regular mysteries of the faith,⁶⁰⁹⁸ and affirms that there is, notwithstanding, but one Christ and His one God, whatever motives men had in preaching Him. Therefore, says he, it matters not to me "whether it be in pretence or in truth that Christ is preached,"⁶⁰⁹⁹ because one Christ alone was announced, whether in their "pretentious" or their "truthful" faith. For it was to the faithfulness of their preaching that he applied the word *truth*, not to the rightness of the rule itself, because there was indeed but one rule; whereas the conduct of the preachers varied: in some of them it was true, *i.e.* single-minded, while in others it was sophisticated with over-much learning. This being the case, it is manifest that that Christ was the subject of their preaching who was always the theme of the prophets. Now, if it were a completely different Christ that was being introduced by the apostle, the novelty of the thing would have produced a diversity (in belief.). For there would not have been wanting, in spite of the novel teaching,⁶¹⁰⁰ men to interpret the preached gospel of the Creator's Christ, since the majority of persons everywhere now-a-days are of our way of thinking, rather than on the heretical side. So that the apostle would not in such a passage as the present one have refrained from remarking and censuring the diversity. Since, however, there is no blame of a diversity, there is no proof of a novelty. Of course⁶¹⁰¹

6096 [Phil. i. 14–17.](#)

6097 [Utique.](#)

6098 [Regulas sacramentorum.](#)

6099 [Phil. i. 18.](#)

6100 [Nihilominus.](#)

6101 [Plane.](#)

the Marcionites suppose that they have the apostle on their side in the following passage in the matter of Christ's substance—that in Him there was nothing but a phantom of flesh. For he says of Christ, that, "being in the form of God, He thought it not robbery to be equal with God,"⁶¹⁰² but emptied⁶¹⁰³ Himself, and took upon Him the *form* of a servant," *not the reality*, "and was made in the *likeness* of man," *not a man*, "and was found in *fashion* as a man,"⁶¹⁰⁴ *not in his substance*, that is to say, his flesh; just as if to a substance there did not accrue both *form* and *likeness* and *fashion*. It is well for us that in another passage (the apostle) calls Christ "the image of the invisible God."⁶¹⁰⁵ For will it not follow with equal force from that passage, that Christ is not truly God, because the apostle places Him in *the image* of God, if, (as Marcion contends,) He is not truly man because of His having taken on Him *the form* or *image* of a man? For in both cases the true substance will have to be excluded, if *image* (or "fashion") and *likeness* and *form* shall be claimed for a phantom. But since he is truly God, as the Son of the Father, in His fashion and image, He has been already by the force of this conclusion determined to be truly man, as the Son of man, "found in the fashion" and image "of a man." For when he propounded⁶¹⁰⁶ Him as thus "*found*" in the manner⁶¹⁰⁷ of a man, he *in fact* affirmed Him to be most certainly human. For what is *found*, manifestly possesses existence. Therefore, as He was found to be God by His mighty power, so was He found to be man by reason of His flesh, because the apostle could not have pronounced Him to have "become obedient unto death,"⁶¹⁰⁸ if He had not been constituted of a mortal substance. Still more plainly does this appear from the apostle's additional words, "even the death of the cross."⁶¹⁰⁹ For he could hardly mean this to be a climax⁶¹¹⁰ to the human suffering, to extol the virtue⁶¹¹¹ of His obedience, if he had known it all to be the imaginary process of a phantom, which rather eluded the cross than experienced it, and which displayed no virtue⁶¹¹² in the suffering, but only illusion. But "those things which he had once accounted gain," and which he enumerates in the preceding verse—"trust in the flesh," the sign of "circumcision," his origin as "an Hebrew of the Hebrews," his descent



6102 Compare the treatise, *De Resur. Carnis*, c. vi. (Oehler).

6103 Exhaustit ἐκένωσε.

6104 [Phil. ii. 6, 7.](#)

6105 [Col. i. 15.](#)

6106 Posuit.

6107 Inventum ratione.

6108 [Phil. ii. 8.](#)

6109 [Phil. ii. 8.](#)

6110 Non enim exaggeraret.

6111 Virtutem: perhaps the *power*.

6112 See the preceding note.

from “the tribe of Benjamin,” his dignity in the honours of the Pharisee⁶¹¹³—he now reckons to be only “loss” to himself;⁶¹¹⁴ (in other words,) it was not the God of the Jews, but their stupid obduracy, which he repudiates. These are also the things “which he counts but dung for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ”⁶¹¹⁵ (but by no means for the rejection of God the Creator); “whilst he has not his own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through Him,” *i.e.* Christ, “the righteousness which is of God.”⁶¹¹⁶ Then, say you, according to this distinction the law did not proceed from the God of Christ. Subtle enough! But here is something still more subtle for you. For when (the apostle) says, “Not (the righteousness) which is of the law, but that which is through Him,” he would not have used the phrase *through Him* of any other than Him to whom the law belonged. “Our conversation,” says he, “is in heaven.”⁶¹¹⁷ I here recognise the Creator’s ancient promise to Abraham: “I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven.”⁶¹¹⁸ Therefore “one star differeth from another star in glory.”⁶¹¹⁹ If, again, Christ in His advent from heaven “shall change the body of our humiliation, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body,”⁶¹²⁰ it follows that this body of ours shall rise again, which is now in a state of humiliation in its sufferings and according to the law of mortality drops into the ground. But how shall it be changed, if it shall have no real existence? If, however, this is only said of those who shall be found in the flesh⁶¹²¹ at the advent of God, and who shall have to be changed,⁶¹²² what shall they do who will rise first? They will have no substance from which to undergo a change. But he says (elsewhere), “We shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord (in the air).”⁶¹²³ Then, if we are to be caught up alone with them, surely we shall likewise be changed together with them.

6113 Candidæ pharisaeæ: see [Phil. iii. 4–6](#).

6114 [Phil. iii. 7](#).

6115 [Phil. iii. 8](#).

6116 [Phil. iii. 9](#).

6117 [Phil. iii. 20](#).

6118 [Gen. xxii. 17](#).

6119 [1 Cor. xv. 41](#).

6120 [Phil. iii. 21](#). [I have adhered to the original Greek, by a trifling verbal change, because Tertullian’s argument requires it.]

6121 [1 Cor. xv. 51, 52](#).

6122 *Deputari*, which is an old reading, should certainly be *demutari*, and so say the best authorities. Oehler reads the former, but contends for the latter.

6123 [1 Thess. iv. 16, 17](#).

Chapter XXI.—The Epistle to Philemon. This Epistle Not Mutilated. Marcion's Inconsistency in Accepting This, and Rejecting Three Other Epistles Addressed to Individuals. Conclusions. Tertullian Vindicates the Symmetry and Deliberate Purpose of His Work Against Marcion.

To this epistle alone did its brevity avail to protect it against the falsifying hands of Marcion. I wonder, however, when he received (into his *Apostolicon*) this letter which was written but to one man, that he rejected the two epistles to Timothy and the one to Titus, which all treat of ecclesiastical discipline. His aim, was, I suppose, to carry out his interpolating process even to the number of (St. Paul's) epistles. And now, reader,⁶¹²⁴ I beg you to remember that we have here adduced proofs out of the apostle, in support of the subjects which we previously⁶¹²⁵ had to handle, and that we have now brought to a close⁶¹²⁶ the topics which we deferred to this (portion of our) work. (This favour I request of you,) that you may not think that any repetition *here* has been superfluous, for we have only fulfilled our former engagement to you; nor look with suspicion on any postponement *there*, where we merely set forth the essential points (of the argument).⁶¹²⁷ If you carefully examine the entire work, you will acquit us of either having been redundant here, or diffident there, in your own honest judgment.⁶¹²⁸



6124 Inspector: perhaps *critic*.

6125 Retro: in the former portions of this treatise.

6126 Expunxerimus.

6127 Qua eruimus ipsa ista.

6128 [Elucidation II.]

Elucidations.

I.

(Soul and Spirit, cap. xv. and notes 1 and 2, p. 463.)

Dr. Holmes, in the learned note which follows, affords me a valuable addition to my scanty remarks on this subject in former volumes. See (Vol. I. pp. 387, 532,) references to the great work of Professor Delitzsch, in notes on Irenæus. In Vol. II. p. 102, I have also mentioned M. Heard's work, on the *Tripartite Nature of Man*. With reference to the disagreement of the learned on this great matter, let me ask is it not less real than apparent? The *dichotomy* to which Tertullian objected, and the *trichotomy* which Dr. Holmes makes a name of "*the triple nature*," are terms which rather suggest a process of "dividing asunder of soul and spirit," and which involve an ambiguity that confuses the inquiry. Now, while the gravest objections may be imagined, or even demonstrated, against a process which seems to destroy the unity and individuality of a Man, does not every theologian accept the analytical formula of the apostle and recognize the *bodily*, the *animal* and the *spiritual* in the life of man? If so is there not fundamental agreement as to [1 Thess. v. 23](#), and difference only, relatively, as to functions and processes, or as to the way in which truth on these three points ought to be stated? On this subject there are good remarks in the *Speaker's Commentary* on the text aforesaid, but the exhaustive work of Delitzsch deserves study.

Man's whole nature in Christ, seems to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit's suffusion of man's *spirit*; this rules and governs the *psychic* nature and through it the *body*.

II.

(The entire work, cap. xxi. p. 474.)

He who has followed Tertullian through the mazes in which Marcion, in spite of shifts and turnings innumerable, has been hunted down, and defeated, must recognize the great work performed by this author in behalf of Christian Orthodoxy. It seems to have been the plan of Christ's watchful care over His Church, that, in the earliest stages of its existence the enemy should be allowed to display his utmost malice and to bring out all his forces against Truth. Thus, before the meeting of Church-councils the language of faith had grown up, and clear views and precise statements of doctrine had been committed to the idioms of human thought. But, the labours of Tertullian are not confined to these diverse purposes. With all the faults of his acute and forensic mind, how powerfully he illuminates the Scriptures and glorifies them as containing the whole system of the Faith. How rich are his

quotations, and how penetrating his conceptions of their uses. Besides all this, what an introduction he gives us to the modes of thought which were becoming familiar in the West, and which were convening the Latin tongue to new uses, and making it capable of expressing Augustine's mind and so of creating new domains of Learning among the nations of Europe.

If I have treated tenderly the reputation of this great Master, in my notes upon his Marcion, it is with a twofold purpose. (1.) It seems to me due to truth that his name should be less associated with his deplorable lapse than with his long and faithful services to the Church, and (2.) that the student should thus follow his career with a pleasure and with a confidence the lack of which perpetually annoys us when we give the first place to the Montanist and not to the Catholic. Let this be our spirit in accompanying him into his fresh campaigns against "the grievous wolves" foreseen by St. Paul with tears. *Acts xx. 29, 30.*

But as our Author invokes a careful examination of his "entire work," let the student recur to Irenæus (Vol. I. p. 352, etc.) and observe how formidable, from the beginning, was the irreligion of Marcion. His doctrines did truly "eat like a canker," assailing the Scriptures by mutilations and corruptions of the text itself. No marvel that Tertullian shows him no quarter, though we must often regret the forensic violence of his retort. As to the *Dualism* which, through Marcion, thus threatened the first article of the Creed, consult the valuable remarks of the *Encyc. Britannica*, ("Mithras"). Mithras became known to the Romans *circa* b.c. 70, and his worship flourished under Trajan and his successors. An able writer remarks that it was natural "Dualism should develop itself out of primitive Zoroastrianism. The human mind has ever been struck with a certain antagonism of which it has sought to discover the cause. Evil seems most easily accounted for by the supposition of an evil Person; and the continuance of an equal struggle, without advantage to either side, seems to imply the equality of that evil Person with the author of all good. Thus Dualism had its birth. Many came to believe in the existence of two co-eternal and co-equal Persons, one good and the other evil, between whom there has been from all eternity a perpetual conflict, and between whom the same conflict must continue to rage through all coming time."

