



A NEW
THEORY
 OF THE
ERRATA,

From its ORIGINAL, to the
 CONSUMMATION of all Things.

WHEREIN.

The CREATION of the World in Six Days,
 The Universal DELUGE,

And the General CONFLAGRATION,

As laid down in the Holy Scriptures,
 Are shewn to be perfectly agreeable to
 REASON and PHILOSOPHY.

With a large Introductory Discourse concerning the Gen-
 uine Nature, State, and Extent of the *Mosaic* History of
 the CREATION.

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A
NEW THEORY
OF THE
ELEMENTS.

BOOK I.

LEMMA I.

I. **A**LL Bodies will persevere for ever in that state, whether of Rest or Motion, in which they once are, if no other force or impediment act upon them, or suffer by them.

II. All Motion is of it self rectilinear, and with the same constant uniform Celerity, if no other external Cause disturb it.

Corollary I. 'Tis evident from these two Propositions, that Matter is intrinsically a passive Substance.

Coroll. 2. No Spontaneous Motion or Action can be the effect of mere Matter.

Coroll. 3. The Soul of Man, whose least Power seems to be that of Spontaneous Actions, is incorporeal: which is also a necessary consequence of the first Corollary.

This the present figure, and large divisions of Sea and Land visible in the Moon, with her continued and uninterrupted brightness, and the appearance of the same Spots, (without the interposition of Clouds or Exhalations) perpetually, do sufficiently evince.

LXXXIX. Since the Deluge there neither has been, nor will be, any great and general Changes in the State of the World, till that time when a Period is to be put to the present Course of Nature.

Gen. viii. 21, 22. *The Lord smelled a sweet savour, and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for (or altho') the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth: Neither will I again smite any more every thing living as I have done. While the Earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and Summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.*

And this as to the time past is abundantly confirm'd by all the Ancient History and Geography compar'd with the Modern; as is in several particulars well observ'd by Dr. Woodward, against the groundless opinions of some others to the contrary.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

Phænomena relating to the General Conflagration. With Conjectures pertaining to the same, and to the succeeding period till the Consummation of all things.

XC. **A**S the World once perished by Water, so it must by Fire at the Conclusion of its present State.

The heavens and the earth which are now, by the word of God, are kept in store, reserved unto fire, against the day of judgment, and perdition of ungodly men.

The heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; The earth also, and the works that are therein, shall be burnt up.

In the day of God the heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat.

But this is so fully attested by the unanimous consent of Sacred and Prophane Authority, that I shall omit other particular Quotations; and only refer the Reader where he may have more ample Satisfaction.

S C H O L I U M.

Having proceeded thus far upon more certain Grounds, and generally allow'd Testimonies, as to the most of the foregoing Phænomena; I might

Dr. Hæz-
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logy of
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God. l. 4:

c. 13.

Theor. l. 3.

c. 3.

might here break off, and leave the following *Conjectures* to the same state of Uncertainty they have hitherto been in. But being willing to comply with the Title, and take in all the great and general Changes from first to last; from the primigential *Chaos*, to the *Consummation* of all things: Being also loth to desert my *Possulium*, and omit the account of those things which were most exactly agreeable to the Obvious and Literal sense of Scripture, and fully consonant to Reason and Philosophy: Being, lastly, willing however to demonstrate, that tho' these most remote and difficult Texts be taken according to the greatest strictness of the Letter, yet do they contain nothing but what is possible, credible, and rationally accountable from the most undoubted Principles of Philosophy: On all these accounts I shall venture to enumerate, and afterward to account for the following *Conjectures*. In which I do not pretend to be Dogmatical and Positive; nay, nor to declare any firm belief of the same, but shall only propose them as *Conjectures*, and leave them to the free and impartial consideration of the Reader.

XCI. The same Causes which will set the World on Fire, will also cause great and dreadful *Tides* in the Seas, and in the Ocean; with no less *Agitations*, *Concussions*, and *Earthquakes* in the Air and Earth.

Mat. xxiv. The Powers of Heaven shall be shaken.

Joel. iii. The Lord shall tear out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth shall shake.

Luk. xxi. The sea and the waves roaring: Men hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the Earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. **XCII.**

XCII. The *atmosphere* of the Earth, before the *Conflagration* begin, will be oppress'd with *Meteors*, *Exhalations*, and *Stems*; and these in so dreadful a manner, in such prodigious quantities, and with such wild confused *Motions* and *Agitations*, That the Sun and Moon will have the most frightful and hideous countenances, and their antient splendour will be intirely obscur'd; The Stars will seem to fall from Heaven; and all manner of *Horrid Representations* will terrifie the *Inhabitants* of the Earth.

I will shew 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.

The sun shall be darkened, and the Moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of heaven shall be shaken. **Mat. xxiv. 29.**

There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the Earth distress of Nations, with perplexity: — Men hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth. **Luk. xxi. 25, 26.**

XCIII. The *Deluge* and *Conflagration* are refer'd, by ancient Tradition, to great *Conjunctions* of the *Heavenly Bodies*; as both depending on, and happening at the same.

Thus Seneca expressly: *Beisfus* (says he) who was an Expositor of *Belus*, affirms, That the *Revolutions* depend on the Course of the Stars; inasmuch that he doubts not to assign the very times of a *Conflagration*, and a *Deluge*: That first mention'd when all

the Stars, which have now so different Courses, shall be in Conjunction in Cancer: All of them being so directly square with respect to one another, that the same right line will pass through them all together: That last mention'd when the same company of Stars shall be in conjunction in the opposite sign Capricorn.

XCIV. The space between the Deluge and the Conflagration, or between the ancient state of the Earth, and its Purgation by Fire, Renovation, and Restitution again, is, from ancient Tradition, defin'd and terminat'd by a certain great and remarkable year, or Annual Revolution of some of the Heavenly Bodies: And is in probability what the Ancients so often refer'd to, pretended particularly to determine, and call'd The Great or Platonick Year.

This year is exceeding famous in old Authors; and not unreasonably apply'd to this matter by the *Theorist*: Which it will better suit in this than it did in their *Hypothesis*.

XCV. This general Conflagration is not to extend to the intire dissolution or destruction of the Earth, but only to the Alteration, Melioration, and peculiar disposition thereof into a new state, proper to receive those Saints and Martyrs for its Inhabitants, who are at the first Resurrection to enter, and to live and reign a thousand years upon it, till the second Resurrection, the general Judgment, and the final consummation of all things.

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The Heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens, and a new earth, wherein dwelleth Righteousness. 2 Pet. iii. 12, 13.

Behold, I create new heavens, and a new earth, and the former shall not be remembered nor come into mind. Isa. lxv. 17.

Verily I say unto you, That ye which followed me, in the regeneration, when the Son of Man shall sit upon the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands for my names sake, shall receive an hundred fold, now in this time, hundred, and fourscore, and six times as much, and in the world to come eternal life. Mar. xix. 28, 29. Mar. x. 29. Luke xviii. 29.

Of old they have laid the foundations of the earth; and the heavens are the work of thy hand: They shall perish, but thou shalt endure; yea all of them shall wax old like a garment; yea as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed. Ps. cii. 5; Ps. cii. 26.

I saw thrones, and they sat upon them; and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipp'd the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands, and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished: This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power: But they shall be priests of God, and of Christ; and shall reign with him a thousand years, &c. Apoc. xx. 4, &c. Apoc. xx. 6.

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But

But so much has been said on this head, to omit others, by the *Theorist*, that I shall refer Theor. 14. the Reader thither, for the other Testimonies of c. 2, 3, 4. the Holy Scriptures, and the unanimous consent of the most Primitive Fathers: Both which he at large, and to excellent purpose, (some particulars excepted) has insisted on.

XCVI. The Fate of Nature during the *Millennium* will be very different from that at present, and more agreeable to the *Antediluvian*, *Primitive*, and *Paradisical* ones.

Whom the heavens must receive until the time of the restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy Prophets since the world began. See more in the *Theory*. Book 4. Chap. 9. and in the proofs of the former Proposition.

XCVII. The Earth in the *Millennium* will be without a Sea, or any large receptacle fill'd with mighty collections and quantities of Waters.

Apoc. xxi. I saw a new heaven, and a new earth; for the first heavens, and the first earth were pass'd away; and there was no more sea.

XCVIII. The Earth in the *Millennium* will have no succession of Light and Darkness, Day and Night; but a perpetual Day.

Apoc. xxi. The gates of the new Jerusalem shall not be shut at all by day; for there shall be no night there. And there shall be no night there.

XCIX. The state of the *Millennium* will not stand in need of, and so probably will be without, the light and presence of the Sun and Moon.

And

And the City had no need of the Sun, neither of the Moon to shine in it. Apoc. xxi. 3.

And they need no candle, neither light of the sun. Cap. xxi. C. At the conclusion of the *Millennium*, the Final Judgment and Consummation of all things, The Earth will desert its present Seat and Station in the World, and be no longer found among the Planetary Chorus.

I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it; from whose face the earth and the heavens fled away; and there was found no place for them. Apoc. xi. 11. Theor. 14. c. 19.

CHAP. V.

Phænomena relating to the General Conflagration: with Conjectures pertaining to the same; and to the succeeding Period, till the Consummation of all things.

XC. AS the World once peris'd by Water, so it must by Fire at the Conclusion of its present State.

XC. As we have given an Account of the *Universal Deluge* from the Approach of a Comet in its descent towards the Sun; so will it not be difficult to account for the *General Conflagration* from the like Approach of a Comet in its ascent from the Sun. For 'tis evident from what has been already explain'd, that in case a Comet pass'd behind the Earth, tho' it were in its Descent, yet if it came near enough, and were it self big enough, it wou'd so much retard the Earth's annual Motion, and oblige it to revolve in an *Ellipsis* so near to the Sun in its *Perihelion*, that the Sun it self wou'd scorch and burn, dissolve and destroy it in the most prodigious degree; and this Combustion being renew'd every Revolution, wou'd render the Earth a perfect *Chaos* again, and change it from a Planet to a Comet for ever after. 'Tis evident *tho'* is a sufficient cause of a general Conflagration with a *Winds*; and

and such an one as wou'd intirely ruine the Make of the present, and the possibility of a future World. On which last account, if we allow the following *Phænomena*, we must not introduce *this*, at this Period however; but see whether a Conflagration of a less destructive, and more refining Nature, be not to be expected, and may not be accounted for. And here let it be observ'd, that the Central Heat of it self seems sufficient to burn up, and dissolve the upper Earth, (as those who, with *Dr. Woodward*, know the Power and Vehemence of the *fire* now, and its astonishing Force, and terrible Effects in Earthquakes, Eruptions of *Volcanos*, and other *Phænomena* of present Nature, ought to allow) if these two things were by any means remov'd; I mean the *waters* of the Seas and Ocean, and the *Callosities* of the Air: For 'tis the vast quantity of *Waters* of the Earth, and the Coldness of the middle Region of the Air every where, and of the whole Air in the *Frigid Zones*, returning *the Vapours cold down* again, which were sent up into 'em. never so low, which seems still to prevent the effects of the Subterraneous Heat, and to hinder the Conflagration of the Earth.

If therefore the passing by of a Comet be capable of emptying the Seas and Ocean, and of rendring the Air, and its contiguous upper Surface of the Earth extremely hot and inflam'd, no more, I suppose, will be necessary to a general Conflagration: Or if any more Assistance be afforded by the Presence of the Comet, it will be *ex abundantis*, and only contribute still the more certainly; and the more suddenly, to kindle such a fatal Fire, and so dreadful a Combustion. Now that both these

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require conditions for a general Conflagration would be the consequents of this Passage of the ascending Comet, is plain and evident: For (1.) on the Approach of the Comet, a vast Tide would arise in the great *Abyss*; and by the new, more considerable, and more violent Elevations thereof into the Protuberances, and the *Spheroid* Surface of the whole, the old *Fissures* and Breaches would be open'd again, and not a few new ones generated; not only, as at the Deluge, in the Mountainous or more loose Collins, extrant above the Surface of the Waters of the Globe; but in all Parts, and under the Seas and Ocean, as well as in other places; which *Fissures* must immediately swallow up the main Mass or Bulk of the Waters upon the Face of the Ground, and send them to their Fellow-Waters in the Bowels of the Earth; which was the first and principal Step towards a general Conflagration. And then (2.) the Vapours acquir'd from the Comet's Atmosphere, which at the Deluge were, by reason of their long absence from the Sun in the remote Regions beyond *Saturn*, pretty cool; at this time must be suppos'd, by reason of their so late and near approach to the Sun about the *Perihelion*, exceeding hot and burning; and that to so extraordinary a degree, that nothing but the *Idea* of the Mouth of a *Volcano*, just belching out immense quantities of liquid and burning Streams, or Torrents of fiery Matter, can in any measure be suitable to the Violence thereof. Imagine, therefore, the Earth to pass through the very middle of this Atmosphere, for 7000 or 8000 Miles together, and to bear off with it a *Cylindrical* Column thereof,

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thereof, whose *Basis** were somewhat larger than a great Circle on the Earth, and whose Altitude were the Number of Miles just now mention'd; and then tell me whether the Air, and its adjoining uppermost Region of the Earth, will not be sufficiently hot and scorching; which was the other Step to the general Conflagration. Besides all which, what quantities of this fiery Exhalation, or Torrent of melted liquid Matter would run down the *Fissures* into the Bowels of the Earth, and by joining with the central hot Steams already there, invigorate them, and accelerate the direful Inflammation; and what piercing and scorching fiery Corpuscles the central Body itself during its vicinity, would also send out; and what an additional Power would thereby be afforded the prevailing Heat, I need not say. Upon the whole, I may appeal to the Reader, if the concurrence of all these external Causes, to say nothing here of any internal Dispositions in the Earth it self thereto, do Theor. 13. not appear abundantly sufficient within a little time to set the World on Fire, and bring on that terrible Conflagration which both Sacred and Profane Testimonies conspire to forewarn us of; and so whether the *Theory* of Comets does not afford us almost as commensurate and compleat an Account of the *last burning*, as it already has done of the *ancient drowning* of the Earth.

XCI. The same Causes which will set the World on Fire, will also cause great and dreadful Tides in the Seas and Ocean; with no less Agitations, Confluxions, and Earthquakes in the Air and Earth.

XCI. Seeing the Eruption of the central Heat, (the cause, 'tis probable, of all our Earthquakes) the presence of a Comet, (the cause once already of the most prodigious Tides that ever were) and the enflam'd *Chaos*, or scorch'd Atmosphere of the Comet, (a smaller part of which occasion'd all our Tempests, our Meteors, our Thunder and Lightning ever since the Deluge) will all concur at once, and with joint Forces conspire together; nothing in the World can be supposed more terrible, nor more exactly correspondent to the *Phenomenon* before us.

XCII. The Atmosphere of the Earth, before the Conflagration begin, will be oppress'd with Meteors, Exhalations, and Steams; and these in so dreadful a manner, in such prodigious quantities, and with such wild confus'd Motions and Agitations, that the Sun and Moon will have the most frightful and hideous Countenances, and their ancient Splendor will be entirely obscur'd: The Stars will seem to fall from Heaven; and all manner of horrid Representations will terrifie the Inhabitants of the Earth.

XCII. Those who consider how a Comet's Atmosphere appears to us after its *Perihelion*, and what large quantities of its newly scorch'd Masses our Air must be clog'd and burthen'd withal, will expect no other effects than those here mention'd; and will easily believe that all such horrible Appearances would ensue, and that in the most amazing Degree, and extravagant Influences possible. The *Theorist's* Representation of this Matter will be, generally speaking, but a fair and just *Idea* thereof.

XCIII.

XCIII. The Deluge and Conflagration are refer'd by ancient Tradition to great Conjunctions of the Heavenly Bodies, as both depending on, and happening at the same.

XCIII. In our Accounts of the Deluge and Conflagration, there is a notable conjunction of the Heavenly Bodies indeed; not such an Imaginary one as the *Astrologers* so ridiculously make a stir about; the bare Position of two or more of the Celestial Bodies in or near the same straight Line, from the Eye of the Spectator, while they are at the most remote Distances from one another; which is a poor jejune thing indeed: But a real one with a Witness; when three of the Heavenly Bodies, the Earth, the Moon, and the Comet, not only are in an *Astronomical Helioentric Conjunction*, or only seem to an Eye in the Sun to be conjoin'd together, but are really so near as to have the mightiest effects and Influences on one another possible; which we have sufficiently shewn in the present *Theory*, and which does peculiarly correspond to the *Phenomenon* before us.

Corollary. 'Tis not improbable but the ancient Tradition, that the Deluge and Conflagration some way depended on certain remarkable Conjunctions of the Heavenly Bodies, mis-understood, and interpreted precariously and wildly mis-apply'd, might give occasion and rise to Astrology; or that mighty quail and pebber so many in all Ages have made about the Conjunctions, Oppositions, and Aspects of the Heavenly Bodies, and the Judiciary predictions therefrom; which even the Improvements of solid Philosophy in our Age have not been able yet to burnish wholly from among us; the occasion whereof is chiefly exceeding dark and unaccountable.

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XCIV.

XCV. The space between the Deluge and the Conflagration; or between the ancient State of the Earth and its Purgation by Fire, Renovation, and Restoration again, is from ancient Tradition defin'd and terminated by a certain great and remarkable Year, or *Annual* Revolution of some of the Heavenly Bodies; and is in probability what the Ancients so often refer'd to, pretended particularly to determine, and call'd the *Great or Platonic Year*.

XCVI. If we allow, as we ought, that in all probability the same Comet that brought on the Deluge will bring on the Conflagration; and that the same Comet has not return'd, nor is to return, till the Conflagration; this matter is easie, and the correspondence accurate and remarkable: For this single Revolution is truly an *Annual* one, and as proper a Year with regard to the Comet, as that of our Earth is with respect to us; and so may most fitly and naturally suit the *Great or Platonic Year*, taken notice of in the Proposition before us.

XCVII. This general *Conflagration* is not to extend to the intire Dissolution or Destruction of the Earth; but only to the Alteration, Melioration, and peculiar Disposition thereof into a new State, proper to receive those Saints and Martyrs for its Inhabitants, who are at the first Resurrection to enter, and to live and reign a thousand Years upon it, till the second Resurrection, the general Judgment, and the final Consummation of all things.

XCVIII. Seeing the *Abyss* consists of a dense and compact *Fluid*, not capable of any Rarefaction or Dissolution by the most violent Heat imaginable, tis evident that the causes here assign'd can only extend to the upper Orb, or habitable Earth, without any farther Progress. So

So that the effect of this Conflagration will be the reduction of this upper Earth, and its Atmosphere, into a confus'd, mixt, and *Chaotic* State; much such an one as was before observ'd to have preceded the Original Formation of it. So that as the Heat decreases, tis but reasonable to expect a kind of Reiteration of the *Mosaic* six Days Creation, or a Renovation of the Primitive State of the Earth; to the Description of which therefore I must refer the Reader.

XCVI. The State of Nature during this *Millennium* will be very different from that at present, and more agreeable to the *Antiluvian, Primitive, and Parrisical* ones.

XCVI. This is apparent from the conclusion of the former *Solution*.

XCVII. The Earth in the *Millennium* will be without a Sea, or any large Recepracle fill'd with mighty Collesions and Quantities of Water.

XCVIII. The Primitive Seas depended on two things; the former, the concurrence of the Central and Solar Heat for an intire half Year together, in the Elevation of sufficient quantities of Vapours: The latter, the Earth's considerable solidity attain'd before the descent of the same Vapours which were to compose the Seas, of which we are speaking: So that if either of these be wanting in this reiterated Formation of the Earth, tis evident the Effect must fail, and the *Globe* be no longer a *Terraqueous* one after the Conflagration. Now the next Proposition but one, asserting the probability of the intire absence of the Sun, must infer

an equal probability of the entire Ablence of Seas also, according as this Propofition afferts.

XCVIII. The Earth in the *Williamian* will have no Succellion of Light and Darknefs, Day and Night; but a perpetual Day.

XCVIII. In case the Earth's *Diurnal Rotation*, upon which these Viciffitudes depend, was retarded fo as to be only exactly equal and commensurate to its *Annual Motion*, (as the case in the *Moon's Diurnal* and *Monthly* Revolutions, is at present, as we have before observ'd) the Earth wou'd constantly expose the same Hemisphere to the Sun, (as the Moon does now to the Earth) and all fuccellion of Day and Night for ever cease; the one half of the Globe enjoying a perpetual Day, while the other was involv'd in Darknefs, or excluded all advantages from him, and thereby enduring a continual Night, so far as natural Causes are here to be consider'd. And that this Retardation of the Earth's *Diurnal Rotation* (even without a recurring to the miraculous Power of its first Author) is accountable from that passing by of a Comet, which we assign for the occasion of the Conflagration, is very easie and obvious: For in case its Ascend and Passage by be on the Last Side, or before the Earth; and in case it approach so near as to sub against it, tis evident such an Impulse is contrary to the course of the *Diurnal Rotation*, and is therefore capbale (the Proportions of every thing being adjust'd by-Divine Providence) of putting such a stop to the same as is necessary to the present *Williamian*, and so may put a Period to that constant Succellion of Light and Dark-

Darknefs, Day and Night, which has obtain'd ever since the Fall of Man; and withal distinguish the Surface of the Earth into two quite different and contrary Hemispheres; near the *Vertex* of one; of which the Sun it self, and near that of the other, its opposite Point in the Heavens, will be always situate.

Corollary. Seeing such a rub of the Comet wou'd affect the Annual Motion of the Earth as well as the Diurnal, 'tis possible it might retard the former as well as the latter, and reduce the Elliptical Course and Orbit of the Earth, to its ancient Circular one again.

XCI. The State of the *Williamian* will not stand in need of, and so probably will be without, the Light and Presence of the *Sun* and *Moon*.

XCI. Seeing the Earth wou'd be on the foregoing Supposition distinguish'd into two quite different Hemispheres, the one of which wou'd be wholly depriv'd of the Light and presence of the *Sun*, and, as far as appears by *St. John*, supply'd by a Supernatural Light, fixt and permanent above its *Horizon*, 'tis clear that the first Branch of this Propofition is accountable thereby, as far as this Physical Theory is concern'd therein. And as to the *Moon*, seeing 'twas only a signal and peculiar Providence that caus'd her equal acceleration, and consequent accompanying the Earth at the former passing by of the Comet; and that no such Providence is again to be expected; 'tis evident that that Rub or Stoppage of the Earth's *Annual Motion*, which retards the same; and does not retard the *Moon's* also, will separate these Planets, and procure their Orbits, Courses, and Periods to be quite different from one another's ever

ever after; according to the greatest rigour of the present Proposition.

C. At the Conclusion of the Millennium, the *Final Judgment*, and the *Consummation* of all things, the Earth will desert its present Seat and Station in the World, and be no longer found among the *Planetary Chorus*.

C. If any Comet instead of passing by, or gently rubbing the Earth, hit directly against it, in its Course either towards or from the Sun, it must desert its ancient Station, and move in a quite different *Elliptick Orbit*; and so of a Planet become again a Comet, for the future Ages of the World.

COROLLARIES

FROM THE

W H O L E.

L Seeing the new and solid Improvements of *Philosophy* do all along give so rational Accounts of those Ancient Theorems, which have been propagated down from the *eldest Ages*, without being then either understood, or intelligible to their Propagators; 'tis reasonable to trust and rely on such Ancient Traditions, not only Sacred, but profane also, in these or any other parallel Cases; they being in all probability the most valuable Remains, and most venerable

verable Truths which the primitive Parents of the World deliver'd down to their Posterity in succeeding Generations.

II. Seeing most of these Ancient Theorems are very much beyond the distinct Knowledge of those who deliver them; contrary to the common Opinion of Mankind, judging usually by sensible Appearances; and in themselves, considering the low State of Natural Knowledge at the same times, were highly improvable, if not utterly incredible to inquisitive Minds: and indeed several of them relating to the Chaos, the Creation, the primary Constitution and State of the World, and the Deluge it self, impossible to be discover'd without Supernatural Revelation; and yet seeing, after all, they do now appear as agreeable to Reason, and the most solid Mechanical Philosophy, as any new Discoveries, built on the exactest Observations of present Nature whatsoever; 'Tis apparent that these Ancient Accounts, especially those contain'd in the Holy Scriptures, were not originally deriv'd from the Natural Skill and Observation of the first Authors, or any other merely Humane Means, but from the immediate and Supernatural Revelation of God Almighty; who was therefore much more conversant with Mankind in the first, than he has been in these last Ages of the World; as the Old Testament-History affirms us.

III. The Measure of our present Knowledge ought not to be esteem'd the Kennew or Test of Truth; or to be oppos'd to the Accounts receiv'd from Pristine Antiquity, much less to the inspir'd Writings. For notwithstanding that several Particulars relating to the Eldest Condition of the World, and its great Catastrophes, examin'd and compar'd with so much

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