

opposition to the God of *Heaven*, but from their earthly and sensual nature.

If we look into the pagan calendar of the Ancients, we shall meet with gods and goddesses of the highest repute, of impure principles and immoral habits. For instance, Saturn is said to have been a murderer—Jupiter, an adulterer—Bacchus, a drunkard—Venus, a prostitute, and Mercury, a thief: besides, the histories of Neptune, Mars, Dianna, and many others highly revered by the people, were full of impure adventures all calculated to corrupt and demoralize their respective worshippers. The consequence was, that the votaries of these earthly gods imbibed their spirit as a virtue, and became earthly, sensual and devilish:” and to such a length was this carried, that fanes were erected to the most vicious passions, and a worship of unmixed crime, was presented therein. Some of the Temples of the ancient Pagans were filled with the grossest abominations, from the very thought of which our minds cannot but revolt: and in many of their sacred festivals the flood-gates of vice were thrown wide open; and vice, intemperance and licentiousness, bursting forth like a mighty deluge, swept away every virtuous principle, and left nothing but misery behind.

That such is the sensualizing spirit of idolatry, is fully proved by those prohibitory commands which the Israelites were to observe in the land of Canaan. In those commands every species of immorality, of

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