

ers, after lives of unintermitted hardship, joyfully incurred death in defence of their truth—we can scarcely imagine the possibility of a more perfect or more abundant demonstration.

It now rests with the Deists, if they would vindicate their claim to the self-bestowed title of men of reason, to adduce some matters of fact of former ages, which they allow to be true, possessing evidence superior or even similar to those of Christ. This however, it must at the same time be observed, would be far from proving the matters of fact of Christ to be false; but certainly, without this, they cannot reasonably assert that their own facts alone, so much more unfavorably circumstanced with regard to testimony, are true.

Let them therefore produce their Cæsar, or their Mahomet.

(I.) Performing a fact, of which men's *outward senses* can judge;

(II.) *Publicly* in the presence of witnesses;

(III.) In memory of which *public monuments and actions* are kept up.

(IV.) Instituted and commencing *at the time of the fact*;

(V.) Recorded likewise in a set of books, addressed to the identical people before whom it was performed, and containing their *whole code of civil and ecclesiastical law*;

(VI.) As the work of one previously announced for that very period by a long train of *prophecies*.

(VII.) And still more peculiarly pre-figured by *types*, both of a circumstantial and personal nature, from the earliest ages; and, lastly,

(VIII.) Of such a character, as made it impossible for either the relators or hearers to believe it, if false, without supposing an *universal deception of the senses of mankind*;

Again—Let them display in its relators, themselves too eye-witnesses of the fact, the same proofs of veracity evinced by an equally-patient endurance of certain distress and death in its support; and in some doctrine founded upon it [as unpopular in its outset, and in its progress as little aided by arms, or learning, or oratory, or intrigue] the same triumph over the united prejudices and passions of mankind: