

racles (we leave the Pretence of them to a Church, which has nothing else to support its corrupt and foolish Doctrines, but such bold and impious Falshoods) but every thing that can be done by the honest Industry of Christian Men, under the Influence of God's Grace and Providence, is endeavour'd to be done by us.

It seeming now that Miracles are ceas'd, the Props of the Infancy of Christianity, (left, in its maturer Age to support it self by its own Strength and Reason;) the true Secret of maintaining it, and farthering its Propagation, is to preach it upon the Plan and Authority of the Gospel only, to recommend it in the Spirit of Meekness, joining to the clear Force of Reason, the honest Arts and Insinuations of gentle Persuasion; and illustrating it, by that which gave our Saviour himself a great Part of his Authority, and to which he more than once Appeals, the pure and shining Example of a good Life.

— That is indeed the *enchanted* Argument, and without it, tho' we talk never so much of being civiliz'd, and boast of the high Privileges of our Religion, an understanding Heathen will condemn and deride us. The plain Truth is, and we must not disguise it; the chief Obstruction in the Conversion of barbarous Nations, and what Miracles themselves could not surmount, arises from the bad Lives of Christians: For when an honest