

unfold it? Here the overwhelming blaze of all Jehovah's attributes and perfections in his Trinity of persons, bursts upon the astonished view, and compels us to exclaim, "*Oh the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God; his ways are past finding out!*" But before we give the outline (for we must be brief) of this glorious Economy, it will tend to illustrate the manifold wisdom, the boundless compassion of our Triune God, if we just glance at man in his primeval state of innocence and purity, and man in his present sinful, wretched, miserable condition. Man, an animal the most noble, a piece of workmanship the most exquisite, a creature capable of the most exalted conceptions and destined for the most wonderful displays of Deity, was the last of all Jehovah's works. In the image of his Creator was he formed; adorned with every grace and virtue and perfection that humanity could admit: perfectly pure, perfectly wise, perfectly happy—his soul illuminated with emanations of Divine light—the eyes of his understanding, not yet blinded by sin, were continually feasting upon the uncreated glories, beauties, and perfections of his Creator. His will was a transcript of the Deity's, and he delighted in communion with the Father of lights. Such was our federal head; but such he continued not. Psl. XLIX. 12. & Eccles. XVII. 29.—The covenant of works, the fulfilment of which would have kept him and all mankind in this most delightful state, our first parent broke. And then, alas! *how did the gold become dim, how was the most fine gold changed—the crown indeed fell from his head.* By the breach of this covenant, he ruined himself and all his posterity. The whole universe was now deranged. All nature felt the shock. Sin, misery, and anarchy, with all their progeny, were introduced into the works of God. Adam then became what man now is, a rebel, a traitor, a hell-deserving wretch—his heart containing the seeds of every crime that blackens the annals of humanity. Such is the present awful, miserable, wretched condition of man. When we seriously reflect upon this—when we think upon the magnitude, the number, the baneful malignity and dismally tremendous consequences of sin; nothing sounds so delightfully in our ears, nor awakens in our hearts such melodious strains of adoring gratitude as "The Economy of Redemption."

Let us, therefore, contemplate this wonderful Economy, in its rise, progress, and consummation. Whence is it? What is the source whence it emanates? Did it spring from the wisdom, from the power, or from the will of man? No, Brethren, salvation is not, either wholly, or in any sense whatever, of any creature. Psl. CXV. 1. XLIX. 7. & Rom. IX. 16. It is altogether exclusively of Jehovah. The self-existent, the uncreated Three, Father, Son, Holy Ghost, in covenant, are the glorious source. Before the existence of men or angels; when Jehovah in his Trinity of Persons was ineffably happy in the enjoyment of his own perfections and eternally independent glories; even from everlasting, he *immutably determined* to create an innumerable multitude of human beings, and to raise from among them untold millions to enjoy in his presence the fullness of joy forever. The Divine Father, by an act of his sovereign love, chose in