

found in their records, so as to give him a claim to that office, such as they might approve.

But inasmuch as Melchisedec was greater than Abraham, from whom the Jewish race immediately originated, he argues from the authority of the 110th Psalm, where Melchisedec is spoken of, which the Jews allowed to be spoken of Christ, or the Messiah who was to come, and was, therefore, a Priest after the order of that extraordinary Prince of Peace, and King of Salem ; because, neither had he such a claim on the Jewish genealogies, as required by the Jews, so as to make him eligible to *their* priesthood, for they knew, or might have known, that Christ did not come of the Aaronic race, but of the line or tribe of Judah.

That he was a man, a mere man, born of a woman, and came into the world after the ordinary manner, is attested by Saint Paul's own extraordinary expression. See Hebrews, vii. 4,—
 "Now consider how great this MAN was, unto whom Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils." However wonderfully elevated among men, and in the sight of God ; however powerful and rich, wise, holy, and happy ; he was, nevertheless, a mere *man*, or the tenth of the spoils he would not have received.

But the question is, what man was he, and what was his name ?
 "Now consider how *great* this man was," are words which may possibly lead us to the *same* conclusion, which we have quoted from the preface of the Book of Job.

There are not wanting circumstances to elevate this man, on the supposition that he was Shem, in the scale of society, far above a common level with the rest of the inhabitants of his country, of sufficient importance to justify St. Paul in saying, "now consider how great this man was."

We shall recount some of the circumstances : and first, at the time he met Abraham, when he was returning from the slaughter of the kings who had carried away Lot, the half brother of Abraham, with all his goods, his wife and children, and *blessed* him ; he was the *oldest* man then on the earth. This circumstance alone was of no small amount, and highly calculated to elevate Shem in the eyes of mankind ; for he was then more than five hundred and fifty years old.

Second : He was then the only man on the earth who had lived before the flood ; and had been conversant with the nations, the in-