

nothing: and in our belief in a mystery so inexplicable, an act of homage paid to his veracity proportionably great; while those *taught of man, who perceiveth not the things that are of the spirit, see nothing in it, but folly, because they cannot understand.*

Yet in all this prodigy of love to man, there is nothing too much for him to accomplish, who could stoop so from his sovereign height to the extreme lowliness and utter abjection of our fallen and wretched condition: could even assume our suffering and mortal humanity; and in it, *as a worm and no man; the reproach of man, and the outcast of the people.*—Ps. xxi. 6.—bear the expiatory punishment of our guilt, in order to save us from destruction. It is not too much for him, who could make himself our brother, to vouchsafe so to dwell in the midst of us; disguised, indeed, to try our faith; and muffled up in the sacramental veils; but in that very same, though now glorified and impassible humanity, which he disdained not to take upon himself for our sake. Here he stands between us and the just wrath of his heavenly Father; pleading, *our high priest according to the order of Melchisadech*, a merciful respite for sinners; and preserving thus our sin-polluted world from destruction: as Moses, interposing himself between the angry Deity and the guilty Israelites, prevented their threatened extermination: and as Aaron, the High Priest, hastening forth with his censor and holy fire, stayed the havoc made in the camp by the destroying Angel.—Num. 14.—*Ibid.* 16, 48.

Yes, he still deigns to dwell in the midst of his followers here on earth. His love for us, which knows no bounds, will not suffer him to be absent from the darling objects of his care and concern. *My delight*, says he, *is to be with the children of men*; Prov. viii. 31—and *where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.* Matt. xviii. 20.

No bars or doors can now exclude his presence. In the midst of his Disciples, though closetted up for fear of the Jews, he suddenly stood; and gave his wounds to be felt by his