

CHAP. II.—Of Original Sin.

1. Did the fall of Adam produce such an effect on his posterity, that mankind became thereby a mass of mere corruption, or of absolute and entire depravity? or is the effect only such, that we are very *far gone* from original righteousness, and of our own nature inclined to evil?

2. Does the notion of man's *total* corruption, or *absolute* depravity, produce in general (what is considered its chief recommendation,) a deep sense of *humility*?

3. Has not the frequent repetition of the doctrine, that we are not only *far gone* from righteousness, but are nothing better than a mass of *mere* corruption and depravity, a tendency to destroy all sense of virtue or moral goodness?

4. Is it possible, that a doctrine, which tends to destroy all sense of virtue, or moral goodness, should be a doctrine that comes from God!

5. Do we exalt the *Creator* by degrading the *creature*?

6. What advantage, then, can we derive from a doctrine, which converts mankind into a mass of absolute and entire depravity?—See Art. IX.

CHAP. III.—Of Free Will.

1. Is it in the power of *man*, without the assistance of *God*, to do what is pleasing and acceptable to *God*? Art. X.

2. Is not divine assistance necessary, even to obtain the *will*, to do so?—Art. X.

4. But when we *have* the will to do what is pleasing to God, is not the grace of God “working with us, and thus *helping* our infirmities?” Art. X.—Rom. viii. 26.

4. Would it not be absurd to say, that the grace of God is working *with* us, ‘if we ourselves had *no share* in the work?’

5. Is it not, then, contrary to our Tenth Article, to declare, that man has *no share* in the work of his own salvation?

6. Though the power which we possess is derived from God, yet when God has *given* us power, does it not rest with ourselves to *exercise* that power?

7. Does not St. Paul declare, that where the spirit of the Lord is, there is *liberty*?—2 Cor. iii. 17.

8. Though it is God who enables us both to will and to do, are we not required in scripture to *exert* that ability, and to *work out* our own salvation?—Philip ii 12.