

justly claim the attributes of Deity : he thought it no robbery to be equal with God. It is, therefore, important for us to recognize that our Divine Redeemer has power and authority to do whatever he will in heaven and in earth.

2nd. An indication of his *official* character.

His offices certify his manhood, his messiahship, and the economy of grace. 1. He presents himself to John as the Apostle and High-Priest of our profession. This is shown,

(1.) By his *vestments*.

He was attired in the robes of the High-Priest. The Lord said unto Moses, "Thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, for glory and for beauty—a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broidered coat, a mitre, and a girdle, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office." (Exod. xxviii. 2, 4.) Under the ceremonial law the minister was a priest to offer sacrifices : In the Gospel dispensation Christ is the only High-Priest of our profession ; and he is here represented as attired in these habiliments. The office of priesthood has been prominent from the time of man's sin. It has been a standing evidence to mankind of their impurity and sinfulness ; and of their need of an atonement. Christ represents himself, by his apparel as discharging the sacerdotal functions. God appointed him to this office with an oath ; his functions are perpetual, his offering is one ; once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself ; and he ever liveth to make intercession for us.

(2.) By an allusion to his *atoning acts*. "I am