

appears to me, were chosen by the design of Heaven, to preserve mankind in the faith and worship of one Creator; and which are, I believe, supported in their principal facts by the immortal Newton, in his System of the Universe, and were certainly believed by him.

Previous to thus presuming to overthrow this sacred religion, it appears to me, this author should have formed a system less replete with absurdity, but fortunately too much so, to produce extensively any evil effects. Christians, in general, are fixed in their notions of the true cause of all they see, taste, and feel around them, and of their own existence. The Jewish nation was taught by a religion which, from the days of Adam, had been followed by mankind,—a belief in one Almighty Creator of all things. This belief had nearly, however, disappeared from the earth in succeeding ages. Men, enervated by the effects of those hot climates, and sunk in consequent sensuality, were tempted to throw off the wholesome restraints of a pure religion, and gradually fell into an idolatry, whose ministers, probably, permitted these sensual habits, to confirm their own power over these people. The Jews, alone, had preserved the worship of one Almighty Creator, until their posterity, after the deliverance from Egyptian bondage, had sunk them into the same idolatrous practices as their forefathers.

And here I beg leave to observe, that this repeated defection of the Jews, and of the rest of mankind, from the worship of one God, appears to me a strong proof that *Deism alone*, in its purest state, is not sufficient to prevent mankind from