

"It was a custom among nations contiguous to Judea, to set a seal upon the victim deemed proper for sacrifice. Thus we find Herodotus in his account of the sacrifice to the idol, Apis, saying, if even one *black* hair is found on the animal, it is deemed unclean. If after diligent search the animal is found to be without blemish, the priest signifies it by binding a label to his horns, and applying wax, seals it with his ring, on which the beast is let away. And indeed to sacrifice a creature not thus examined and sealed, is a punishment to which death is decreed.

Thus, then, God, infinite in holiness and justice, found Jesus Christ to be a lamb without spot or imperfection, and therefore sealed him as "a proper sacrifice for the sins of mankind." Collate this passage with Heb. ix, 13, 14. Eph. v. 27. I Pet. iii, 18. "The Rabbins talk much of the seal of God which they suppose to be *emeth* or truth; and that this is a representation of the unoriginated and endless perfections of God, which sentiment they endeavour to establish in a very ingenious, though by no means satisfactory manner. *Aleph*, say they, is the first letter of the Alphabet; *mem* the middle; and *tau* the last: these three letters make *emeth*, truth; because God is the first, there was none before him; he is the middle, none mingles with him; and he is the last, there can be none after him."

In some future communication, I shall furnish a few additional proofs of the ingenuity displayed by the Jewish Rabbies in interpreting many parts of the divine oracles.

AMICUS.

THE PROGRESS OF THE REFORMED RELIGION IN IRELAND.

We are no admirers of the spirit of proselytism, in the ordinary acceptance of the expression. We at least disclaim it for ourselves. We do more. In these days, we distrust hasty changes of religion. We think that, *ceteris paribus*, a man ought to prefer the religion of his fathers. Assuredly, to say the least, he ought not to turn away from it without *very weighty reasons*, and after *most mature deliberation*, accompanied by earnest prayer to the *Spirit of all wisdom and knowledge*. Among every denomination of christians, a vast proportion possess not the opportunity or abilities to undertake a minute investigation of all the differences and shades of difference, or of the comparative excellencies and defects of various churches; and among those gifted few, who *do* possess such opportunity and ability, coupled also with inclination and resolution to undertake the arduous though deeply interesting task, we should entertain some slight doubts of the filial character of that man who did not enter upon that investigation with a *predilection* (we will not say a *prejudice*) in favour of that religious persuasion in which he had been nurtured and