

may see by comparing the Talmudic quotations above with Dr. Townley's three propositions.

The first Talmudic axiom quoted was, that "the main cause of all disease is blood," and we maintain that is to the eating of blood this remark refers. The observations of Dr. Townley will appear to the candid reader to be nothing more than illustration and commentary on these axioms, though doubtless involuntarily so on his part, for we may be permitted to suppose that the Doctor, without any imputation on his Rabbinical learning, which seems to be of no mean order, did not know, or perhaps did not recollect, these Talmudic passages. We say, then, that Dr. Townley observes—and *not* with reference to the first of the Talmudic axioms we have quoted, though we request the reader to compare; "the blood being highly *alkalescent* especially in hot climates, is subject to speedy putrefaction; and, consequently, that flesh will be most wholesome and best answer the purposes of life and health, from which the blood has been drained, and will preserve its suitability for food the longest.

Our second Talmudic quotation was, "the main cause of all disease is blood," Dr. Townley remarks: "2nd. Blood affords a very gross nutriment, and is very difficult of digestion, and in some cases it is actually dangerous to drink it: for if taken warm and in large quantities, it may prove fatal, particularly bull's blood, which was given, with this view, to criminals by the Greeks, "its extreme viscosity rendering it totally indigestible by the powers of the human stomach." Valerius Maximus (lib. v. c. 6.) ascribes the death of Themistocles to his having purposely drunk a bowl of ox blood during a sacrifice, in order to avoid subjecting his country, Greece, to the King of Persia. It is true, the blood of animals does not always produce similar effects, but this may be owing rather to the smallness of the quantity taken, than to its not being injurious in its nature, or its malignity may be partially counteracted by the other dietetic substances with which it may be eaten.*

The third Talmudic axiom was, "Much blood, much scurvy". Dr. Townley says "3rd. Those nations which feed largely upon flesh, are observed to be remarkably subject to *scorbutic diseases*; and if physicians be right in ascribing such tendency to animal food in general when freely eaten, especially in the hotter climates, it must be acknowledged that the grosser and more indigestible juices of such food must have the greatest

be remarked that the Talmud contains traditions which were generally acknowledged by Jews, and were ancient even at the time of their compilation.

* Dr. A. Clarke's commentary on Levit. xvii. 11.—Michaelis's Commentaries on the Laws of Moses, vol. 3. art. 206, p. 252.—Revelation examined with Candour vol. 2. 23. Encyc. Perth., article *Blood*.