

that the allusion must have been to the of Jesus. They ask us to believe that Isiah offered to Achaz, as a sure and positive token by which the latter might know that he would overcome his enemies, the prediction that, 600 years after his death, a child would be born; and that the prophet, having in view this birth of a child more than 600 years after the death of Achaz, deemed it necessary to enter into the further assurance that before the child in question would be old enough to distinguish what was pleasant from what was unpleasant to the taste, Achaz would be delivered from his enemies! A sign is something which foreshows; it is something that is an evidence and an assurance that a certain event or result will follow; and it must precede the result or event that is to follow, just as a cause precedes the effect; but our Christian friends think nothing of reversing this natural order of things. They think nothing of making the fulfilment of the sign given to Achaz follow by more than 600 years that defeat of his enemies which it was intended to foreshow; and they ask us to believe that an event that was to happen 600 years after the death of Achaz could have been a token to him that success would attend him in his struggle with the kings of Israel and of Syria. Again we must say that we cannot congratulate our Christian brethren upon their method of interpreting our Scriptures, nor upon the soundness of the arguments they offer for our consideration.

The time during which I may claim your attention this evening will not permit me to notice any other of the passages in our Scriptures by which our Christian friends try to prove the union of two other gods with the Eternal,