A LETTER

TO

HENRY HUNT, Esq. M. P.

FOR PRESTON,

ON THE

HOCUS-POCUS

OF THE

Decromancer-Theologer,

R. TAYLOR,

IN HIS

Pandemonial Sermon

AT THE

ROTUNDA.

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PATER NOSTER ROW, LONDON.
SIR,

Since you have conferred on the Reverend R. Taylor the diploma of Bishop of Hell and Pandemonium, and since, in virtue of that office, he has displayed his Necromancer's functions for Raising the Devil, we beg leave to inform you as a Christian duty that we were present last week at his Pandemonial Lecture in the Rotunda. However, we must say that we felt disappointed, since the raising the Devil, as promised in the bills, was nothing more than a vulgar Burletta for raising Mammon in the shape of coppers (a real penny-catching). Thus, whilst he clamours against Priestcraft, for their money-getting, his Devilcraft is not less thirsty after coined metal, and this in a pantomimical manner.

First of all, we do not consider his person a Parson, since he reviles Priests, though dressed in Priestly Robes; nor is he a Rabbi, or Dervis, or Bouze, or Quebra, or Lama, since he has no religion at all; and as he hates Christianity, Bible, Christ, &c. he must be considered really an Envoy of the Subterraneous Metropolis—a Paranymp of the Mulato Angels of the Lower Negroland. This is not an injury to him, since he glories in that capacity.

Yet, ludicrous it is, that a man who burlesques Scriptures, Godhead, Eternity, and the Soul's Immortality, should believe in Serpentine Angels, and boast of being their Champion. Really, in all records of past ages it is difficult to light upon such a figure as Master Tailor cut in the Rotunda as a Conjurer. Nor have we ever heard a discourse in so astronomical-comical, frenetical-poetical, dogmatical-lunatical a manner. We could not observe other than a real Buffoon, representing a Tailor cutting pantaloons for devils, being himself a Pantaloon in the infernal arena. Never did his lips pronounce a truth during two hours, except when he stated himself to be the Devil's Minister, and this was truth in word and deed; sliding from a Clergyman into a Comedian, and from a Comedian
is given to know the mysteries of the Heavenly Kingdom: but to them (the Jews) it is not given: they having eyes do not see.*

Here, alas! is the case of Mr. Taylor. Reprobates and outcasts cannot have a peep into the Divine Subtilties, but only gaze at the outward Stars, seeing through quizzing glasses how the aforesaid figures counterfeit in the Zodiac above, without reflecting that these grandeur of the Starry Heights are nothing but low vaults of the Tetragramaton's Higher Tabernacles. But Reprobates are crawling Crocodiles on the surface of this muddy swampy Earth, being for superior things Blind Minds. A just doom from the Sovereign Deity. If impious Blasphemers think they disdain God, it is God who has first reprobated and disdained them, as sentenced to everlasting doom.† And this doom will soon come, since Life is but a Day; and on the verge of that Day is Mr. Taylor. Soon he will know that there is an Avenging God and a Hell. And this Hell is for unbelievers, sorcerers, and dogs.‡ And who are these dogs? Semipternal Barkers against Eternal Truths, Deniers of the Soul, classifying themselves with Baboons and Ourang-outangs, being no more than Walking Pillars of Matter, in fine, Barking Dogs, and more so, if we add to this Animality the low appendage of Tail or Deil.

But to return to the point, Mr. Taylor does not approve that our Saviour should be tempted by the Devil: nor does he approve that after forty days fasting, the Man-God should avoid the tempting bread hinted by the infernal Prompter; nor that He should reject the promises of a World, which Mr. Taylor paints an Utopian Land, (with some water running in the roof of his palate,) as showing that were he himself in the place of Christ, he would accept immediately the Friendly Fiend's offer. But Master Taylor must know, that if he delights himself in good goose and dressed ragouts, Christ disdained mundane ritz, and being himself Author of Immaterial Delights, and having come to overcome the World, Devil, and Flesh.

Another comical sight, just to raise the dead into bursts of laughter, is when Mr. Taylor argues from the Bible to the Globes, and from the Globes to the Bible, squeezing words in Holy Writ to find out by centuriotes allegorical senses for his Maniac Zodiac, this cutting with a Taylor's scissors the Bible for tailment for his Zodiacal Animals, and reserving only for himself a poor Devil's Skirt. He might as well say, that since a Taylor's trade is ruled by mathematical principles, it is founded on the Globes, and that everything formally formed (since form everything must have) is in the Constellations, and applicable to the Skies by virtue of the Compass. However, Mr. Taylor must know that the Eternal Word and Eternal Truth existed before the Stars. Besides the Sacred Writings are so ancient and primary in the rank of Human Records, that the most renowned Philosophers (as Pythagoras, Plato, and others) traveled to Syria, Chaldea, and Egypt, to hold conference with the Rabbinists; thus imbibing from these inspired truths rich percolations for their philosophies. Even the rites we still observe in Gentiles

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* Matt. xii. 11, 13. † Thx. ii. 10. Ibid. iv. ‡ Rev. xxii. 19.
Illustrations, censers, altars, sacrifices) were all taken from the Mosaic revelations; since from the Hebrews did the Egyptians copy; from the Egyptians the Greeks, and from the Greeks the Romans. Even Mythology itself derived many moral maxims from that Book of Revelations, though disguised in symbols (as Tertullian, Turmenin, and others demonstrate). A Great is the antiquity of this Book, original fountain of recorded morals, if we consider Moses the first known register of Dogmas and Facts, who wrote 1450 years before Christ, and 500 before Homer, the first celebrated profane writer. But this Book teaches Morality and Dogma, and not Astrology. The new Testament too, being penned by plain barefooted fishermen, smells more of a Barge and Net than contemplations of Constellations. It is ridiculous to confound Theology with Astrology; but more ridiculous to confound Christ with Satan, allegorizing this notion in the succession of the Day and Night, Night and Day, as if we could not apply every alternative in nature to that GRAND DISCOVERY of Mr. Taylor, more so, when the Book itself (which he pretends to burlesque) says that everything in creation is made of two opposites—Good, Evil, Life, Death—so Day, Night, Truth, Error, &c. &c.

In fine, if the Bible is a composition of Falsehoods; HAPPY FALSEHOODS, we say, that have such effect upon human nature, as to correct our Morals and angelize our Minds. HAPPY FALSEHOODS, that must be divine, since they raise Man above his Nature. This Fable never did: and this is more than all the cant that any lying Ranter can prompt, with four dancing gestures and two farceal jestings. Besides if we dispute these sacred Records, we must deny ALL historical and scientific Registry among mankind; even attested Authorities in all branches of Science; since all must stand upon the faith given to their Authors. The Sacred Pages are attested by Jewish Authors, as Flavius Josephus: are attested by Profane Writers, as Suetonius, Tacitus, Plinius: are attested by the Sybils in several ages. But what characterizes more this Book above the Schol­yon of Confucius, the Turkish Koran, the Indian Vedam, and the Jewish Thaalmud, is the sound Doctrine and angelical Morality it inspires, and this more than the gifts of Miracle and Prophecy. I say, Prophecy, for we see verified in the Law of Christ what was shadowed in the Mosaic Law. And to point out another example in the New Law; we see the Apostles (called Impostors) prophesied that in the latter times there should appear False Masters, teaching Doctrines of Devils, denying the Lord their Redeemer, blaspheming Majesty, reviling every thing they know not, &c. &c. &c. This we see accomplished in Mr. Taylor as Functionary of the Dark Realms. He is our Demon Python in the Rotunda's Pit, in a pitiful manner, degraded to the very dregs of Humanity—a real "Robert the Devil." The Sacred Oracles proclaim aloud, there will come at last Antichrists and False Christs: Mr. Taylor, however, is forward in his mission; he must await a bit; because times are not yet fully ripe for public Necromancers. We have heard that the Devil spoke once in the haunts of Delphi and Dodon, and from trunks of trees; but we never

* Tert. Apol. c. 27. Turunc. Memoires de Trevoux, 1705, Janvier. † Excl. xxi. 15. ‡ 2 Pet. ii. from 1 to 19. &c. from 14 to 19.
thought he would now speak to us in the shape of a Goose, as we saw in the Rotunda.

Now let us try the weight of some of his Etymological discoveries. It seems that Mr. Taylor derives from the English Deuce the Latin Deus (God). This is a little quid pro quo, the same as deriving the fountain from the stream, and not the stream from the fountain. But even supposing he made a mistake in his expression against his meaning, pretending to derive Deuce from the Latin Deus, it is another quid pro quo if we listen to Dr. Johnson, whose words are these, "Deuce, or rather Deuce, derives from Dusius, an ancient Species of evil Spirits, as attested by Congreve." Here we have two authorities against Mr. Taylor, who wants to bob the mob with his scientific scraps, making wax noses of his own manufacture. Another discovery. The seven churches in the Revelations are transplanted by Mr. Taylor into the Zodiac, and Asia (being Land of Fire) means the Ethereal Spheres. Thus by this system of transplantation, Philadelphia (being Brotherly Love) is applied to the sign of Gemini: Laodicea (meaning Just People) to Libra, &c. &c. Then, says Mr. Taylor, these passages being at first enigmatical and senseless, everybody must laugh: but after he opened the Sesamma with his Conjurer's key, he asks who now shall laugh? Well: he must know that we laugh heartily. We never saw a thing so plain as a Church, which he calls an enigma, explaining it by another enigma. Here there is no occasion to force the literal sense; especially when there exist evidences of such names in modern Asia. Mr. Taylor interprets against the Hermeneutical rules, confounding historical facts with his chimerical jingling of Judaizing, or Zodiacizing the Scriptures, and mistaking the Visible in the World for the Visionary in his Nodde. Who would say that St. John the Fisherman turned Mathematician by four tailor's teachings!!! However, much can be done by the power of Hocus Pocus. Our Theologer-Astrologer converts Christ into Satan; the Old Serpent into the Terraqueous Globe; the Churches in Asia into the Spherical Balls. (Without being seen, how he plays these balle.) He only touches each Church with his magical stick, reading by his book, and tah! in the twinkling of an eye off they go into the Sky. PRO-DI-GIOUS!!! However, we do not admire this trick: because the Celestial Signs being twelve, there wants five Churches more to make up the other five signs. Therefore either St. John was a bad Astrologer, or Mr. Taylor is a bad Interpreter. Perhaps he means to say that Religion fled from Men into the Stars in this epoch; but he should not explain an allegory by another allegory. However, thanks for his Discoveries, he being a higher man than Hipparchus, Tycho, Kepler, Hevelius, Galileo, Cassini, Herschel, Olbers, Harding, and others who have only found out some Stars or Groups, without seeing Inhabitants; but Mr. Taylor has seen real Churches!!! PRO-DI-GIOUS!!!!!!!

From the above remarks we may judge of the rest. Mr. Tailor wants to supplant the Bible by hook and by crook. Yet his person will soon disappear like a phantom, and the Book will remain as it has stood through all centuries, mangre the puny pinches of the impious of all ages. If he pretends to a new wit and a new system, he must know that his tales have