

The EPISTLE of IGNATIUS to the EPHESIANS.

¶ OF THE EPISTLES OF IGNATIUS.

[The Epistles of Ignatius are translated by Archbishop Wake from the text of Vossius. He says that there were considerable differences in the editions; the best for a long time extant containing fabrications, and the genuine being altered and corrupted. Archbishop Usher printed old Latin translations of them at Oxford, in 1644. At Amsterdam, two years afterwards, Vossius printed six of them, in their ancient and pure Greek; and the seventh greatly amended from the ancient Latin version, was printed at Paris, by Ruinart, in 1689, in the Acts and Martyrdom of Ignatius, from a Greek uninterpolated copy. These are supposed to form the collection that Polycarp made of the Epistles of Ignatius, mentioned by Irenæus, Origen, Eusebius, Jerome, Athanasius, Theodoret, and other ancients; but many learned men have imagined all of them to be apocryphal. This supposition, the piety of Archbishop Wake, and his persuasion of their utility to the faith of the church, will not permit him to entertain; hence he has taken great pains to render the present translation acceptable, by adding numerous readings and references to the Canonical Books.]

CHAP. I.

1 *Commends them for sending Onesimus, and other members of the church to him. 8 Exhorts them to unity, 13 by a due subjection to their bishop.*

IGNATIUS, who is also called Theophorus, to the church which is at Ephesus in Asia; most deservedly happy; being blessed ¹through the greatness and fulness ²of God the Father, and predestinated before the world began, that it should be always unto an enduring and unchangeable glory; being united and chosen ³through his true passion, according to the will of the Father, and Jesus Christ our God; all ⁴happiness, by Jesus Christ, and ⁵his undefiled grace.

2 I have heard of your name much beloved in God; which ye have ⁶very justly attained by a ⁷habit of righteousness, according to the faith and love which is in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

3 How that being ⁸followers of God, and stirring up yourselves by the blood of Christ ye have perfectly accomplished the

work that was con-natural unto you.

4 For hearing that I came bound from Syria, for the common name and ⁹hope, trusting through your prayers to fight with beasts at Rome; so that by ¹⁰suffering I may become indeed the disciple of him ¹¹who gave himself to God, an offering and sacrifice for us; ¹²(ye hastened to see me). I received, therefore, in the name of God, your whole multitude in Onesimus.

5 Who by inexpressible love is ours, but according to the flesh is your bishop; whom I beseech you, by Jesus Christ, to love; and that you would all strive to be like unto him. And blessed be God, who has granted unto you, who are so worthy of him, to ¹³enjoy such an excellent bishop.

6 For what concerns my fellow servant Burrhus, and your ¹⁴most blessed deacon in things pertaining to God; I entreat you that he may tarry longer, both for yours, and your bishop's honour.

¹ In. ² See Eph. iii. 19. ³ In. ⁴ Health, Joy. ⁵ Received. Vid. Epist. Interpol. ⁶ Vid. Coteler. in loc. Comp. Gal. iv. 8. ⁷ Pearson. Vind. Ignat. Par. 2. cap. 14. ⁸ Imitators. ⁹ Viz. of Christ. ¹⁰ Martyrdom. ¹¹ Eph. v. 2. ¹² See the old Lat. Ed. of Bishop Usher. ¹³ Possess. ¹⁴ Blessed in all things.

7 And Crocus also worthy both our God and you, whom I have received as the pattern of your love, has in all things refreshed me, as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ shall also refresh him; together with Onesimus, and Burrhus, and Euclus, and Fronto, ¹ in whom I have, as to your charity, seen all of you. And may I always, ² have joy of you, if I shall be worthy of it.

8 It is therefore fitting that you should ³ by all means glorify Jesus Christ who hath glorified you: that ⁴ by a uniform obedience ⁵ ye may be perfectly joined together, in the same mind, and in the same judgment: and may all speak the same things concerning everything.

9 And that being subject to ⁶ your bishop, and the presbytery, ye may be wholly and thoroughly sanctified.

10 These things I ⁷ prescribe to you, not as if I were somebody extraordinary: for though I am bound ⁸ for his name, I am not yet perfect in Christ Jesus. ⁹ But now I begin to learn, and I speak to you as fellow disciples together with me.

11 For I ought to have been stirred up by you, in faith, in admonition, in patience, in long-suffering; but forasmuch as charity suffers me not to be silent ¹⁰ towards you, I have first taken upon me to exhort you, that ye would all run together according to the will of God.

12 For even Jesus Christ, our inseparable life, is sent by the ¹¹ will of the Father; as the bishops, appointed unto the ut-

most bounds of the earth, are by the will of Jesus Christ.

13 ¹² Wherefore it will become you to run together according to the will of your bishop, as also ye do.

14 For your ¹³ famous presbytery, worthy of God, is fitted as exactly to the bishop, as the strings are to the harp.

15 Therefore in your concord and agreeing charity, Jesus Christ is sung; and every single person among you makes up the chorus:

16 That so being all consonant in ¹⁴ love, and taking up the song of God, ye may in a perfect unity with one voice, sing to the Father by Jesus Christ; to the end that he may both hear you, and perceive by your works, that ye are indeed the members of his son.

17 Wherefore it is profitable for you to live in an unblameable unity, that so ye may always ¹⁵ have a fellowship with God.

CHAP. II.

¹ *The benefit of subjection. 4 The bishop not to be respected the less because he is not forward in exacting it: 8 warns them against heretics; bidding them cleave to Jesus, whose divine and human nature is declared; commends them for their care to keep themselves from false teachers; and shews them the way to God.*

FOR if I in this little time have had such a familiarity with your bishop, I mean not a carnal, but spiritual acquaintance with him; how much more must I think you happy who are so joined to him, as the church is to Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ to

¹ By. ² See Philem. 20. Wisd. xxx. 2. ³ In all manner of ways. ⁴ In one. ⁵ 1 Cor. i. 10. ⁶ The. ⁷ Command you. ⁸ In. ⁹ For. ¹⁰ Concerning ¹¹ Mind, counsel, opinion, &c. ¹² Whence. ¹³ Worthy to be named. ¹⁴ Concord. ¹⁵ Partake of.

the Father; that so all things may agree in the same unity?

2 Let no man deceive himself; if a man be not within the altar, he is deprived of the bread of God. For if the prayers of¹ one or two be of such force, as we are told; how much more powerful shall that of the bishop and the whole church be?

3 He therefore that does not come together in the same place with it, is² proud, and has already³ condemned himself. For it is written, ⁴God resisteth the proud. Let us take heed therefore, that we do not set ourselves against the bishop, that we may be subject to God.

4 ⁵The more any one sees his bishop silent, the more let him revere him. For whomsoever the master of the house sends to be over his own household, we ought in like manner to receive him, as we would do him that sent him. It is therefore evident that we ought to look upon the bishop, even as we would do upon the Lord himself.

5 And indeed Onesimus himself does greatly commend your good order in God: that you all live according to the truth, and that no heresy dwells among you. For neither do ye hearken to any one more than to Jesus Christ speaking to you in truth.

6 For some there are who ⁶carry about the name of Christ ⁷in deceitfulness, but do things unworthy of God; whom ye must ⁸flee, as ye would do so many wild beasts. For they are ravening

dogs, who bite secretly: against whom ye must guard yourselves, as men hardly to be cured.

7 There is one physician, both fleshly and spiritual, made and not made; God incarnate; true life in death; both of Mary and of God; first passible, then impassible; even Jesus Christ our Lord.

8 Wherefore let no man deceive you; as indeed neither are ye deceived, being wholly the servants of God. For inasmuch as there is no contention nor strife among you,⁹ to trouble you, ¹⁰ye must needs live according to God's will. ¹¹My soul be for yours; and I myself the expiatory offering for your church of Ephesus, so famous¹² throughout the world.

9 They that are of the flesh cannot do the works of the spirit; neither they that are of the spirit the works of the flesh. ¹³As he that has faith cannot be an infidel; nor he that is an infidel have faith. But even those things which ye do according to the flesh are spiritual; forasmuch as ye do all things in Jesus Christ.

10 Nevertheless I have¹⁴ heard of some who have¹⁵ passed by you, having perverse doctrine; whom ye did not suffer to sow¹⁶ among you; but stopped your ears, that ye might not receive those things that were sown by them; ¹⁷as becoming the stones of the temple of the Father, prepared for¹⁸ his building; and drawn up on high by the Cross of Christ,¹⁹ as by an engine.

11 Using the Holy Ghost as

¹ Matt. xviii. 19. ² Is already proud and has, &c. ³ Judged, or separated. ⁴ James, iv. 6. ⁵ And the. ⁶ Accustom themselves to carry. ⁷ In wicked deceit. ⁸ Avoid. ⁹ Which can. ¹⁰ Without doubt ye live. ¹¹ Vid. Voss. Annot. in loc. Pearson, Vind. Ign. par. 2, pp. 207, 208. ¹² To ages. ¹³ As neither is faith the things of infidelity, nor infidelity the things of faith. ¹⁴ Known. ¹⁵ Passed thither. ¹⁶ Upon. ¹⁷ Comp. Eph. ii. 20, 21, 22. ¹⁸ I Pet. ii. 5. ¹⁹ The building of God the Father. ²⁰ By the engine of the cross, etc.

the rope: your faith being your support; and your charity the way that leads unto God.

12 Ye are therefore, with all your companions in the same¹ journey, full of God; his spiritual temples,² full of Christ, full of holiness: adorned in all things with the commands of Christ.

13 In whom also I rejoice that I have been thought worthy by³ this present epistle to converse, and joy together with you; that with respect to the other life, ye love nothing but God only.

CHAP. III.

1 Exhorts them to prayer; to be unblameable. 5 To be careful of salvation; 11 frequent in public devotion; 13 and to live in charity.

PRAY also without ceasing for other men: for there is hope of repentance in them, that they may attain unto God. Let them therefore at least be instructed by your works, if they will be no other way.

2 Be ye mild at their anger; humble at their boasting; to their blasphemies return your prayers: to their error, your⁴ firmness in the faith: when they are cruel, be ye gentle; not endeavouring to imitate their ways.

(3 Let us be their brethren in all kindness and moderation, but let us be followers of the Lord; ⁵ for who was ever more unjustly used? More destitute? More despised?)

4 That so no herb of the devil may be found in you: but ye may remain in all holiness and sobriety⁶ both of body and spirit, in Christ Jesus.

5 The last times⁷ are come upon us: let us therefore be very reverent and fear the long-suffering of God, that it be not to us unto condemnation.

6 For let us either fear the wrath that is to come, or let us love the grace⁸ that we at present enjoy: that⁹ by the one, or other, of these we may be found in Christ Jesus, unto true life.

7¹⁰ Besides him, let nothing¹¹ be worthy of you; ¹² for whom also I bear about these bonds, those spiritual jewels, in which I would to God that I might arise through your prayers.

8 Of which I entreat you to make me always partaker, that I may be found in the lot of the Christians of Ephesus, who have always¹³ agreed with the Apostles,¹⁴ through the power of Jesus Christ.

9 ¶ I know both who I am, and to whom I write; I, a person condemned: ye, such as have obtained mercy: I, exposed to danger; ye, confirmed against danger.

10 Ye are the passage of those that are killed for God; the companions of Paul in the mysteries of the Gospel; the Holy, the¹⁵ martyr, the deservedly most happy Paul: at whose feet may I be found, when I shall have attained unto God; who¹⁶ throughout all his epistle, makes mention of you in Christ Jesus.

11 Let it be your care therefore to come more fully together, to the praise and glory of God. For when ye meet fully together in the same place, the powers of

¹ Pearson, ib. part 2, cap. 12. ² Carriers. ³ These things I write. ⁴ Be ye firm. ⁵ Who has been more, etc. ⁶ In Jesus Christ both bodily and spiritually. ⁷ 1 Cor. vii. 34. ⁸ Remain: or, for it remains. ⁹ Is present. ¹⁰ One of the two, only that we may be found, etc. ¹¹ Without him. ¹² Become you. ¹³ In. ¹⁴ Assented to. ¹⁵ In. ¹⁶ Witnessed of. ¹⁷ Vid. Coteler. in loc. Pears. Vind. Ign. Par 2, cap. 10.

the devil are destroyed, and his mischief is dissolved by the unity of their faith.

12 And indeed, nothing is better than peace, by which all war both spiritual and earthly is abolished.

13 Of all which nothing is hid from you, if ye have perfect faith and charity in Christ Jesus, which are the beginning and end of life.

14 For the beginning is faith; the end is charity. And these two joined together, are of God: but all other things which concern a holy life are the consequences of these.

15 No man professing a true faith, sinneth; neither does he who has charity hate any.

16 The tree is made manifest by its fruit; so they who profess themselves to be Christians are known by what they do.

17 For Christianity is not the work of an outward profession; but shows itself in the power of faith, if a man be found faithful unto the end.

18 It is better for a man to hold his peace, and be; than to say he is a Christian and not to be.

19 It is good to teach; if what he says he does likewise.

20 There is therefore one master who spake, and it was done; and even those things which he did without speaking, are worthy of the Father.

21 He that possesses the word of Jesus is truly able to hear his very silence, that he may be perfect; and both do according to what he speaks, and be known

by those things of which he is silent.

22 There is nothing hid from God, but even our secrets are nigh unto him.

23 Let us therefore do all things, as becomes those who have God dwelling in them; that we may be his temples, and he may be our God: as also he is, and will manifest himself before our faces, by those things for which we justly love him.

CHAP. IV.

1 To have a care for the Gospel. 9 The virginity of Mary, the incarnation, and the death of Christ, were hid from the Devil. 11 How the birth of Christ was revealed. 16 Exhorts to unity.

BE not deceived, my brethren: those that corrupt families by adultery, shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

2 If therefore they who do this according to the flesh, have suffered death; how much more shall he die, who by his wicked doctrine corrupts the faith of God, for which Christ was crucified?

3 He that is thus defiled, shall depart into unquenchable fire, and so also shall he that hearkens to him.

4 For this cause did the Lord suffer the ointment to be poured on his head; that he might breathe the breath of immortality unto his church.

5 Be not ye therefore anointed with the evil savour of the doctrine of the prince of this world: let him not take you captive from the life that is set before you.

6 And why are we not all

¹ Destruction. ² Concord. ³ Of things in heaven and of things on earth. ⁴ Being in unity. ⁵ Matt. xii. 38. ⁶ Shall be seen or made manifest. ⁷ Speaking, not to be. ⁸ If he who says, does. ⁹ That he may. ¹⁰ Him. ¹¹ Out of. ¹² The corrupters of houses. 1 Cor. vi. 9, 10. ¹³ 1 Cor. x. 8. ¹⁴ Such a one being become defiled. ¹⁵ Hears him. ¹⁶ Receives ointment. Psalm xliv. 8, cxxxii. 2.

wise, seeing we have received the knowledge of God, which is Jesus Christ? Why ¹do we suffer ourselves foolishly to perish; ²not considering the gift which the Lord has truly sent to us?

7 ³Let my life be sacrificed for the doctrine of the cross; which is indeed a scandal to the unbelievers, but to us is salvation and life eternal.

8 ⁴Where is the wise man? Where is the disputer? Where is the boasting of those who are called wise?

9 For our God Jesus Christ was according to the dispensation of God ⁵conceived in the womb of Mary, of the seed of David, ⁶by the Holy Ghost; ⁷he was born and baptized, that through his passion he might purify water, to the washing away of sin.

10 Now the Virginitie of Mary, and he who was born of her, was kept in secret from the prince of this world; as was also the death of our Lord: three of the ⁸mysteries the most spoken of throughout the world, yet done in ⁹secret by God.

11 How then was our Saviour manifested to the world? A star shone in heaven beyond all the other stars, and its light was inexpressible, and its novelty struck terror into men's minds. All the rest of the stars, together with the sun and moon, were the chorus to this star; but that sent out its light exceedingly above them all.

12 And men ¹⁰began to be troubled to think whence this ¹¹new star came so unlike to ¹²all the others.

13 Hence all the power of magic became dissolved; and every bond of wickedness was ¹³destroyed: men's ignorance was taken away; and the old kingdom abolished; God himself ¹⁴appearing in the form of a man, for the renewal of eternal life.

14 From thence began what God had prepared: from thenceforth things were disturbed; forasmuch as he designed to abolish death.

15 But if Jesus Christ shall give me grace through your prayers, and it be his will, I purpose in a second epistle which I will suddenly write unto you to manifest to you more fully the dispensation of which I have now begun to speak, unto the new man, which is Jesus Christ; both in his faith, and charity; in his suffering, and in his resurrection.

16 Especially if the Lord shall ¹⁵make known unto me, that ye all by name come together in common in one faith, and in one Jesus Christ; who was of the race of David according to the flesh; the Son of man, and Son of God; ¹⁶obeying your bishop and the presbytery with an entire ¹⁷affection; breaking one and the same bread, which is the medicine of immortality; our antidote that we should not die, but live forever in Christ Jesus.

17 My soul be for yours, and theirs whom ye have sent to the glory of God, even unto Smyrna, from whence also I write to you; giving thanks unto the Lord and loving Polycarp even as I do you. Remember me, as Jesus Christ does remember you.

¹ Are we foolishly destroyed? ² Not knowing. ³ See Dr. Smith's note in loc. 1 Cor. i. 18, 23, 24. ⁴ 1 Cor. i. 20. ⁵ Carried. ⁶ But by. ⁷ Who was. ⁸ Mysteries of noise. ⁹ Silence or quietness. See Rom. xvi. 25. ¹⁰ There was a disorder. ¹¹ Novelty. ¹² Them. ¹³ Disappeared. ¹⁴ Being made manifest. ¹⁵ Reveal. ¹⁶ That ye may obey. ¹⁷ Mind.

18 Pray for the church which is in Syria, from whence I am carried bound to Rome; being the least of all the faithful which are there, as I have been thought

worthy to be found to the glory of God.

19 Fare ye well in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ, our common Hope. Amen.

¶ To the *Ephesians*.

The EPISTLE of IGNATIUS to the MAGNESIANS.

CHAP. I.

4 *Mentions the arrival of Damas, their bishop, and others, 6 whom he exhorts them to reverence, notwithstanding he was a young man.*

IGNATIUS who is also called Theophorus; to the blessed (church) ² by the grace of God the Father in ³ Jesus Christ our Saviour: in whom I salute the church which is at Magnesia near the Mæander: and wish it all joy in God the Father and in Jesus Christ.

2 When I heard of your well ordered love and charity in God, being full of joy, I desired much to speak unto you in the faith of Jesus Christ.

3 For having ⁴ been thought worthy to obtain a most excellent name, ⁵ in the bonds which I carry about, I ⁶ salute the churches; wishing in them a union both of the body and spirit of Jesus Christ, our eternal life: as also of faith and charity, to which nothing is preferred: but especially of Jesus and the Father; in whom ⁷ if we undergo all the injuries of the prince of this present world, and escape, we shall enjoy God.

4 Seeing then I have been

judged worthy to see you, by Damas your ⁸ most excellent bishop; and by your very worthy presbyters, Bassus and Apollonius; and by my fellow-servant Sotio, the deacon;

5 In whom ⁹ I rejoice, forasmuch as he is the subject unto his bishop as to the grace of God, and to the presbytery as to the law of Jesus Christ; ¹⁰ I determined to write unto you.

6 Wherefore it will become you also not ¹¹ to use your bishop too familiarly upon the account of his youth; but to yield all reverence to him according to the power of God the Father; as also I perceive that your holy presbyters do: not considering his ¹² age, which indeed to appearance is young; but as becomes those who are prudent in God, submitting to him, or rather not to him, but to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the bishop of us all.

7 It will therefore ¹³ behoove you ¹⁴ with all sincerity, to obey your bishop; in honour of him ¹⁵ whose pleasure it is that ye should do so.

8 Because he that does not do so, deceives not the bishop whom

¹ Vid. Interp. Lat. Epist. Interpol. ² In. ³ According to. ⁴ Been vouchsafed a name carrying a great deal of divinity in it. ⁵ See Bishop Pearson. Vind. Ign. par. ii. cap. 12, p. 146. ⁶ Sing. commend. ⁷ Undergoing, escaping. ⁸ Worthy of God. ⁹ Whom may I enjoy. ¹⁰ Apud. Vet. Lat. Interp. Glorificato Deum Patrem D. nostri Jesu Christi. ¹¹ Vid. Voss. Annot. in loc. Pearson Præf. ad Vind. Ignat. ¹² Seeming youthful state. ¹³ It is becoming. ¹⁴ Without any hypocrisy. ¹⁵ Who willeth it.