5thly, After all, γραμματα and φωνηεντα are the same in Josephus as in the Greek epigram in Eusebius 1, and they the same with pury the human and articulate voice, which, as Capellus m observes, consists not of vowels only, but of confonants also; and both in the one as in the other, the tetragrammaton, or the name of four letters, Jehovah is thought to be meant; or of seven letters, four consonants and three vowel-points; hence Scaliger " fays, " there is no necessity " by φωνηεντα to understand vowels, in " the above Greek epigram, fince Josephus " expresly calls the four letters of the te-" tragrammaton φωνηεντα, whence it appears " that any letters may be so called;" and Josephus's view in the observation he makes was not to tell us what fort of letters they were that were upon the mitre of the high priest, whether vowels or consonants; but that it was the tetragrammaton or name of four letters, that was written upon it, using the language of his own nation, and which continues in use to this day; wherefore both Selden o and Braunius ? render the passage in Josephus thus, " about " it

Præpar. Evangel. l. xi. c. 6. m Orat. de Nom. Tetragram. p. 172. n In Fragm. ad Calcem lib. de Emendat. Temp. p. 34. De Success in Fontif Ebr. l. 2. c. 7. P De Vestitu Sacerd. Heb. l. 2. c. 22. s. 18. p. 811.

it (the mitre) was another golden crown " bearing facred letters, that is, the name " tetragrammaton." Philo calls them the four engravings of the name, and the engravings of the four letters, and this, fays he, divines call tetragrammaton +. Moreover, though Josephus does not make express mention of the Masorab in his writings, yet Arias Montanus q thinks, he never could have fo confidently faid what he faid without the help of it; as when he fays, in fuch a space of time that was past, meaning from Moses, " no man dared " to add, nor to take away, nor to " change any thing in the scriptures, chusing " rather to die;" and the same says Philo the Yew!, who lived in the same age, and a little before him, that the Yews in the fpace of more than 2000 years, " never " moved out of its place one word of what " was written by Moses, rather willing to " die a thousand times than go contrary to "the laws and customs;" and that there was a Masorab before their times is acknowledged by fome who have been opposers

<sup>†</sup> De vita Moss, l. 3. p. 670, 673. 

De Varia Heb. Lib. Script. & Lect. 
Contr. Apion 1. 1. c. 8. 
Apud. Euseb. Evangel. præpar. l. 8. c. 6. p. 357.

posers of the points, as before observed. The silence of *Philo* and *Josephus* about the points, is only a proof that they were not a matter of controversy, but no proof of their not being in use.

#### A. D. 31.

THAT the points were in use in the times of Christ may be concluded from Mat. v. 18. till heaven and earth pass away one jot (or one Yud, as the Syriac vertion) or one tittle (or one Chirek, as Elias Hutter in his Hebrew version) shall in no wife pass from the law till all be fulfilled; and so as the least letter in the Hebrew alphabet You is referred to, the least of the points in use, Chirek, is also; between which and the Greek word nepaia, used by the Evangelist, is great nearness of sound, and seems to be no other than that point made Greek. So Dr. Lightfoot observes that our Saviour in his words of one *Iota*, and one *Keraia*, not perishing from the law, seems to allude to the least of the letters, Jod, and to the least vowel and accent. The argument from hence cannot well be put more strongly

<sup>6</sup> Works, vol. 1. p. 1014.

strongly than it is by Dr. John Prideaux , who yet was an opposer of the points; " if the points, fays he, were not at this " time, why does the Saviour make men-"tion of them? if they were the same " with the confonants or only cornicular " eminencies of them, why are they rec-" koned here as distinct things?" and to which he makes a very feeble answer, and indeed the argument feems unanswerable: nor can the pricks on certain letters called הגים, be defigned, though very ancient, being mentioned in the Talmud\*, and the fame letters on which they are put, and on them only and not on all; and as Broughton's observes, "these, and likewise accents, are " no part of the word, therefore vowel-" pricks (or points) must be meant;" and it may be concluded with Piscator on the place, that Christ " so calls, i. e. tittles, what now " go by the name of points, which in He-" brew writing are variously put to letters, " both to fignify the proper found of some " of them, and the vowel-founds, and also " the accents and parts of a sentence; hence " it appears that the holy Bible in the time

P Viginti duæ Lectiones, Lest. 12. p. 182.

Menachot, fol. 29, 2.

\* T. Bab.

Works, p. 204.

time of Christ was pointed, and that " that punctuation was approved of by " him;" fo Pasor in his Lexicon says, "by tittle here is meant a point; wherefore the vowel-points were in the time of Christ; and not, as fome pretend, a new invention." The words of Christ expressed on the cross, Eli, Eli, &c. and the names of persons in the genealogies of the Evangelists, and in Heb. xi. and in other places of the New Testament, seem to confirm the modern punctuation. The Dagesh forte appears, and is preserved in many words in those times, as in Immanuel, Mat. i. 22. Matthew, Lebbæus, Thaddæus, Matt. x. 3. Hosanna, Matt. xxi. 9. Ephphatha, Mark vii. 34. Anna, Luke ii. 36. Matthat, Matthathias, Luke iii. 24, 25. Matthias, Acts i. 23. Abaddon, Rev. ix. 11. Armageddon, Rev. xvi. 16. Sabbaton, Matt. xii. 5. Lamma, Mark xv. 34. with others, and the Dagesh lene in Capernaum, Sarepta, and others; and even the use of the Pathach Genubah appears in the pronunciation of Messias and Siloam as well as the other points, John i. 41. and ix. 7, 11.

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### A. 30. Ante Christum.

ABOUT this time lived two famous doctors among the Jews, Hillell and Shammai, heads of two schools and of two sects. so different, that it is said the law was as two laws, and a fast was appointed on account of the division between them d; the former was followed by the Rabbanite Jews, and the latter by the Karaite Jews: and it may be observed, that Josephus calls Pollio, the same with Hillell, a Pharifee, but not Sammeas or Shammai, he mentions with him; through whom the Karaites derive the genealogy and fucceffion of their doctors, and from whom they fay they received the doctrine and copy of the law f; which Shammai had from Shemaiah, and he from Judah ben Tabbai, in whose days the separation was made, 120 years before Christ, as will be seen hereafter. Now the Karaites with one consent declare, that the copy of the law they had, had the points and accents, and that fuch copies

ruch, par. 1. c. 580. Antiqu. l. 15. c. 1. f. 1.
Dod Mordecai, five Comment. de Karæis, c. 9. p.
97. Edit. a Wolfio. Blbid, c. 12. p. 150.

copies they always had and used; as the Hillellian copy is also a pointed one. I have observed under A. D. 340. that some learned men take that copy to be this Hillell's, and I am pretty much inclined to the same opinion; for, as Shammai had a copy for him and his party, so Hillell had, no doubt, one for him and his; and as the Karaites boast of their copy, and of the antiquity of it, so the Rabbanites boast of Hillell's copy; which must be the copy of some eminent person of that name, by which all copies were corrected; and who fo eminent as this Hillell? It is indeed most generally ascribed to a Hillell, who lived in the fourth century, not so famous as this; and as for the copy which R. Zacuth faw, and which had been written 900 years before he faw it, which, from 1500, in which he lived, carries it up to the year 600, it falls short of that Hillell, and still more of this. I suppose, therefore, that that was a copy taken from the original copy of the elder Hillell, and being the only one remaining, was valued, and made use of for correcting all other copies; so that if this was the case, there were two pointed Bibles as early as the date  $Q_2$ 

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date given. Hillell began his government as the head of an academy, 100 years before the destruction of the temple, about the beginning of the reign of Herod, with which Josephus agrees, who calls him Pollio, as before observed.

### A. 40. Ante Christum.

ABOUT this time lived R. Nechuniah Ben Kanah, as the Jewish chronologers quenerally place him. I suspect him to be the same whom Grotius calls R. Nehumias, who, according to him, was fifty years before Christ, and who then openly declared, that the time of the Messiah signified by Daniel, would not be prolonged beyond those fifty years. To this Rabbithe book of Babir is generally ascribed by the Jews: Could the authenticity and antiquity of it be established, it would furnish out a very early proof of the points; for R. Bechai, a celebrated writer with the Jews, has a quotation out of it to this

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T. Bab. Sabbat, fol. 15, 1. Juchasin, fol. 19, 2. Ganz Tzemach David, par. 1. fol. 24, 2. <sup>1</sup> Antiqu. l. 15. c. 1. s. c. 10. s. 4. & Josipp. Heb. l. 5. c. 13. <sup>9</sup> Juchasin, fol. 20, 1. Ganz Tzemach David, par. 1. fol. 24, 2. <sup>1</sup> De Ver. Relig. Christ. l. 5. s. s. 14. <sup>9</sup> Apud Buxors. Tiberiad. c. 9.

purpose, "Letters are like to the body, "and points to the soul, for the points "move the letters as the soul moves the body, as our R. R. expound in the book of Babir;" but seeing such antiquity of this book is doubtful as ascribed to it, I lay no stress upon it; though Buxtors for says, it is the most ancient of all the Rabbinical books, and if so, it must be as ancient as it is said to be; since Jonathan Ben Uzziel, who wrote on the prophets, was cotemporary with the supposed author of it.

#### A. 120. Ante Christum.

In the times of John Hyrcanus, and Alexander Jannæus his son, sprung up the sect of the Karaites in opposition to the Pharises, who had introduced traditions, and set up the oral law, which these men rejected. In the times of the said princes lived Simeon Ben Shetach, and Judah Ben Tabbai, who slourished A. M. 3621. these two separated, the latter from the former, because he could not embrace his inven-

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>t</sup> Bibliothec. Rab. p. 319. so Groddeck de Script. Rabbin. f. 74. p. 26. <sup>u</sup> Cosri, par. 3. s. 65. Maimon. in Pirke Abot, c. 1. s. Juchasin, fol. 51. 1.

tions which he formed out of his own brain; and from him the Karaites sprung, who were first called the society or congregation of Judah Ben Tabbaik, which was afterwards changed into the name of Karaites: for that they had their rise from Anan and Saul, who lived in the eighth century after Christ, and so after the Talmud was finished, as fay Morinus 1 and others, is very false; for mention is made of them in the Misnah m compiled in the 2d century; they were only the restorers not the authors of Karaism, which must be near as early as Pharifaism; and that, according to Josephus, was as early as the times of Jonathan the Maccabee. these men, the Karaites, adhered to the scriptures only, whence they had their name, which fignifies Scripturarians, the same, as some think, with the Scribes, γραμματεις, letter-men, and these the same with the lawyers in the New Testament, who kept to the letter of the scriptures, Matt. xxiii. 13. compared with Luke ii.

52.

<sup>\*</sup> Dod Mordecai, c. 2. p. 12, 13, 14. 

1 De Sincer. Heb. Text. l. 2. Exercit. 7. c. 1. f. 6. 

1 Megillah c. 2. 

1 fol. 24, 2. Amftelod. Ed. vid. Houting. in Mifn. Roshhashanah, c. 2. f. 1. & Trigland. de Sect. Karæorum, p. 20, 21. 

2 Antiq. l. 13. c. 5. f. 9.

32. and Matt. xxii. 35. with Mark xii. 28. but the Scribes and Pharifees are not only put together, but as agreeing with each other, and so they might in some things agree against the Sadducees, who denied the refurrection, See Acts, xxiii. q. and might differ in other things; but what makes most against the Scribes being the same with the Karaites, is their joining with the Pharisees in the point of traditions, Mat. xv. 1. 2. Mark vii. 1—5, and on the other hand what feems most to favour the notion that the Scribes and Lawyers differed from the other fects, is the text in Luke xi. 45. and certain it is, that Christ does speak more favourably of the Scribes than of others, Matt. xiii. 52. and xvii. 10, 11. Mark xii. 28, 34. and he is sometimes compared with them, though with some difference, Matt. vii. 29; and Orobio, a Yew, of the last century, said our Yesus was a Karaite, and a Rabbinical Jew, out of ill-will to the Karaites, feigned a letter from them to the other Yews, afferting that Jesus of Nazareth agreed with them, and exhorted his followers to receive

<sup>•</sup> Apud Trigland. ut supra, c. 6. p. 66. • Apud Huldric. Not. ad Toldos Jeschu, p. 82, 83.

ceive their rites, and not those of the Rabbanites; and that their ancestors had no hand in his death, and that they were the Rabbanites that flew him, and were only answerable for it; but it is evident that the Scribes were concerned in the death of Christ, Matt. xvi. 21. and xx. 18. xxvi. 3. xxvii. 42. though after all, it may be reafonably thought that the Karaites, some of them, were among the Scribes, of which scribes there were some in every sect, and included in them q; for as there were Scribes on the fide of the Pharifees, Acts xxiii. 9. so mention is made in Jewish writings, of the Scribes of the Sadducees, and of the Samaritans. Now the fentiments of these men, the Karaites, were from the beginning of them, constant and uniform; they made the scripture their only rule, would not admit of any innovation in it, nor addition to it, nor that the inventions and traditions of men should be made equal to it, and much less set up above it. The testimony therefore of such men for the points, must be very considerable.

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<sup>9</sup> Vid. Drusium de Sect. Jud. 1. 2. c. 13. Alting. Shilo, I. 4. c. 8. Trigland. ut supra, c. 6 G. Ursin. Antiqu, Heb. Academ. c. 9. p. 227.

Buxtorf\*, the younger, indeed, does fay of the Karaites, that they rejected punctua tion as a species of the oral law, and of tradition; greatly mistaking the author of the book of Cosri, who from the Karaites admitting the points, urges their admission of tradition; fince he, and other Jews, thought punctuation, from the times of Moses to Ezra, was delivered by tradition, and therefore, fays he \*, 'if so it is, both we and the Karaites, are bound to admit tradition;' to which king Chofroes is made to answer, so the Karaites indeed will say (i. e. with respect to the necessity of the tradition of the points and accents to read the book of the law); but when they have found or got a perfect law (a copy with points and accents) they will deny that they have any further use of tradition, i. e. for the explanation of it.' Now though this writer may go too far in ascribing traditions to the Karaites, though they did allow it in some sense; yet it is plain he took it for granted, that they were for using, and did make use of pointed copies of the law; and so Morinus \* himself understood it, and owns

w De Punct. Antiqu. par. 1. p. 300. \* Cosri, par. 3. f. 33, 34. \* Epist. Buxtors, ep. 70. in Antiqu. Eccles. Orient. p. 362.

it; but this is still more clear and manifest from their own writings: in a book y of theirs, in great repute with them, it is obferved, that the patrons of tradition explain boughs of thick trees, used in the feast of tabernacles, Lev. xxiii. 40. of a tree whose leaves are treble, according to Exod. xxviii. 14. but, fays the Karaite writer, this is contrary to the nature of the language, for this y (in עבת) is with a Kametz, but that is with a Sheva; fo in another work they fay, the Rabbanites affirm, that what is written in the law needs explanation by tradition, but we don't believe so; but that what is written, its explanation goes along with it, meaning in the vowel-points; and a little after some pointed words are used. The Karaites own, that their copies of the Bible agree with those of the Rabbins, because the disposition and order of the books of scripture were made by Ezra, who lived before the schism; and as to the various readings of Ben Asher and Ben Naphtali, many of which are about the points and

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<sup>\*</sup> Addareth Eliahu apud Trigland. de Sect. Kar. p. 32. R. Caleb, Asarah Maamarot, MS. apud Trigland. Ib. p. 117.

accents, they rather agree with the latter; but it greatly displeases them that in some places the points are changed and others put in their room for modesty-sake a, as in 1 Sam. v. 6. 9. 12. and vi. 4. 2 Kings vi. 25. by which it appears they are very tenacious of the points, and are not for altering them on any account; which they would never be sticklers for, could they be thought by them to be the invention of the Rabbins, and additions to the scriptures made by them. Mordecai, the famous Karaite in 1699, and his affociates, are unanimous for the antiquity and coevity of the points with the letters; his words in answer to some questions sent him by Triglandius are these \*, " all our wife men with one mouth affirm " and profess, that the whole law was " pointed and accented, as it came out of " the hands of Moses the man of God:" how false then is it what Morinus + says, that "all the Jews, the Karaites also, tho' " enemies of the traditions, and the Kabala, "believe, as a most certain tradition, that "the book of the law which Moses deli-" vered

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Chillouk MS. apud Trigland. Ib. p. 189, 190. \* Dod Mordecai, c. 12. p. 150-157. † Epist. Buxtorsio in Antiqu. Eccles. Orient. Ep. 70. p. 394.

" vered to the Israelites, was without points "and acents;" but F. Simon \* is against him, and affirms, that the Karaites readily receive the Bible with the vowel-points, accents, and Masorab. The above Karaite goes on and fays, " far be it that the in-" vention of points and accents was made " after the finishing of the Talmud, for " this is largely to be confuted; for the " division of the Rabbans and Karaites " was long before the finishing of the " Talmud, as has been proved; and if " there were no points nor accents in " the time of the division, but were found out only after the finishing of the Tal-" mud, then there would be different co-" pies of the law and of the prophets in " our hands; that is, copies in the hands " of the Karaites, pointed different from " the pointing of the copies in the hand " of the Rabbans; for in the places where the Rabbans have contradicted the vowels " and the accents, and fay, don't read fo, " and so, they would not have said, don't " read, but absolutely they would have se pointed according to their will and " and fense;" of which he gives instances in

<sup>\*</sup> Disquisit. Critic. c. 4. p. 25. & c. 12. p. 93, 95.

in which they might have so done; and observes, that many of the Rabbans asfert, that the points and accents were equally as ancient as the letters; as R. Azariah in Meor Enayim, and R. Samuel Arkevolti in Arugat Habboshem: and he goes on and fays, that "the copy of the scrip-" tures which we have is the fame that " the Rabbans have; in this there is no division, no difference between us; for " the disposition or order of the scriptures " was from the men of the great fyna-" gogue, those good figs, on whom be " peace, at which time there was no dif-" fension between them; wherefore with " us there is nothing full and deficient, " neither first and last, no Keri and Che-" tib, but what are in the order of the " scriptures which is now in the hands of " the Rabbans; and the most correct books " are the most in esteem with us, and we " follow, or depend upon the reading of " Ben Naphtali:" and it is certain their Bibles had the same Masoretic notes and observations in common with the Rabbanites; fo it is observed by them \*, that the

<sup>\*</sup> Menachem in Dod Mordecai, c. 10. p. 130. that Menachem was a Karaite, vid. Trigland de sect. Karæorum, c. 11. p. 187.

the letter in in twenty places is written at the end of a word, but not read, which agrees with the prefent Majorah. R. Aaron, a Karaite, published a Hebrew grammar in 1581, in which he never deserts, as can be observed, the modern punctuation of the Bible, and confults the Masorab in words written defectively, or in any other irregular way, and is full of Masoretic obfervations, fuch as the Rabbanites produce \*; and a Karaite +, of the same name, who wrote a commentary on the law in 1294, frequently refers to the points, and makes mention of the names of them, as, Tzere, Pathach, Sheva, Hataph-camets, Cholem, Shurek, Dagesh. This fect, the Karaites, would never have admitted the present punctuation, if they had not believed it obtained in the Bible of old, and came from God himself; and as others relate, they strongly affirm, that the vowelpoints of the Hebrew Bible are from Mofes and the prophets. The sense of the Karaites about the points is with me an invinci-

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Vid. Wolfii Access. ad Notitiam Karæorum, p. 37. & Biblioth. Heb. p. 119. + Vid. Simon. Disqu. Critic. c. 12. p. 95, 96. vid. Massechet Sopherim, c. 6. s. 4. c Leageri Epist. Hottinger. in Thesaur. Philolog. p. 54.

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ble proof of the great antiquity, and against the novelty of them; for from the time that this sect rose up, it was not possible for the Pharisees, Rabbanites, Masoretic, or traditionary Jews call them by what names you will, to have introduced such an invention as the vowel-points, in any period of time whatever, but these men would have objected to them as such, and would never have received them; it is to me a demonstration that the vowel-points were in being before the schism was, which was about the time before given, and were universally regarded by the Jews so early, as of a divine original.

## A. 164. Ante Christum.

The Keries and Cetibs, of which Elias fays d there are 848, are various readings, or differences of the marginal reading from the written text. That these are of great antiquity is certain; since they are not only mentioned in the Babylonian Talmud, but in the Jerusalem Talmud\*, particularly the various reading of Hagg. i. 8. and in the

Præfat. 3. ad Masoret. ° T. Bab. Nedarim, fol. 37, 2. Sopherim, c. 6. s. 8. &. c. 7. s. 1, 2, 3, 4. & c. 9. s. 8. Maccot, fol. 32, 1.

the book of Zobar ; though when these marginal readings were first made or began to be made, is not certain: the Yews fays, they are a tradition of Moses from mount Sinai; but that cannot be, fince his books were not then written, and much less the books of the prophets; fome Christians indeed are of opinion, as Broughton, Ainswork, and Wasmuth, that both the text and marginal reading are of divine inspiration; and it must be owned, that in many places they may be both taken into the sense of the passage, and much enrich it, and both are taken in by our translators in Prov. xix. 7. and in the margin of 2 Sam. xxiii. 13. and in other versions; but they are by others supposed to be put by Ezra and the men of the fynagogue, on the return from the captivity, who, upon revifing the books of scripture, and feveral copies of it, observed various readings; so Kimchi, on I Kings xvii. 14. fays, the copies were perplexed or disturbed in the captivity h; they found one copy so, and another so; and some they did not understand.

f In Deut. fol. 119, 3. & 226, 3. g T. Bab. Nedar. ut fupra, Schulchan Aruch. par. c. 141. f. 8. h Vid. Ben Chayim Præfat. ad Bibl. Heb, col. 1.

ftand, and fome of which they did not chuse to put into the text, nor to cast away, and therefore put one within in the text, and the other without in the margin, to be used at discretion; and in his preface to the former prophets he observes much the fame: "In the first captivity the copies " were lost or removed out of their place, " (were out of order) and the wife men " that knew the law were dead; and the " men of the great fynagogue, who re-" flored the law to its former flate, found " variations in the copies, and they went " after the greater number (of copies) ac-" cording to their judgment; and a place " which they could not clearly understand, " they wrote the word and did not point " it; or they wrote it without (in the " margin) and did not write it within (in "the text) and fo they wrote in one way " within, and in another way without." It is faid in the Jerufalem Talmud " " they " found three copies in the court, (not with " Ezra, as Morinus renders it,) in one they found it written ny, Deut. xxxiii. " 27. in two מעונה; they confirmed the " two (as the true reading) and rejected " the R

<sup>\*</sup> Taanioth, fol. 68, 1. b Exercit. 1. 2. exerc. 12. c. 3.