

one thing is true? The scriptures may be false, election a foible, redemption a farce, the influences of the Holy Ghost a mere puff of wind, not amounting to the breath of a *fly*; hell may be nothing more than a frightful name, and heaven a mere elysium of dreams. In short, the idea of an insincere God, is attended with endless and horrid consequences—consequences that must fill saints with distrust, hell with triumph, and heaven with confusion; supposing, however, that such things and places should have any existence. Nor can the consequences be eluded without pleading for divine ignorance, feebleness, mutability, perplexity, and insecurity. Contend for these things, and I have done. Such advocates destroy the sinews of argument, and rank among atheistical incurables. But admit the eternity, sincerity, simplicity, intelligence, and omnipotence of Jehovah, and offered grace must appear in a very odious light. Admit his eternal power and Godhead, and there are no *safety escapes*, no *loop-holes*, no *back-doors*, nor *trap-doors*. Persons must either give up the principles, or submit to the inference; abandon the creed, or be involved in the consequences.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF JEHOVAH.

By his sovereignty I do not mean his doing or not doing, giving or withholding, in an arbitrary manner, without any regard to his truth, justice, holiness, goodness, &c. But I mean that which, consistent with his own perfections, he might either have done or not done, given or withheld. Salvation is said to be of grace, and grace involves the idea of sovereignty; seeing it is favour conferred in *sovereignty*, which might have been withheld in *equity*. View mankind in any position you please *out* of Christ, and no rule can be discovered which could oblige the eternal Jehovah to confer electing, adopting, redeeming, and sanctifying grace on any of the human race. He must, therefore, find the motives of salvation in his own sovereignty, to the praise and glory of his own grace. Sovereignty reigns in all the covenant distributions of divine mercy. Jehovah throws