

*ecclesiasticus* 15. 14. God in the begining made man, and left him in the hand of his Counsell. *and verse* 16, 17. He hath set fire and water before thee, stretch forth thy hand to whether thou wilt. Before man is life and death, and whether him liketh shall be given him.

*And those places which the Bishop citeth.* If a wife make a vow, it is left to her husbands choise, either to establish it, or to make it void, *Numb.* 30. 14. *and Josh* 24. 15. Chuse ye this day whom you will serve, &c. But I and my house will serve the Lord. *and 2 Sam.* 24. 12. I offer thee three things, choose which of them I shall do. *and Before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and chuse the good. E-say* 7. 10. *And besides these very many other places to the same effect.*

*The third sort of Texts are those which seem to make against me.* As, *Esay* 5. 4. What could have been done more to my Vineyard, that I have not done in it?

*And Jer.* 19. 5. They have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sonns with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal; which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind.

*And Hosea* 13. 9. O Israel thy destruction is from thy self, but in me is thy help.

*And 1 Tim.* 2. 4. Who will have all men to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of truth.

*And Ecclesiasticus* 15. 11. 12. Say not thou it is through the Lord I fell away, for thou oughtest not to do the things that he hateth. Say not thou, he hath caused me to erre; for he hath no need of thee sinfull man. *And many other places to the like purpose.*

*You see how great the apparent contradiction is between the first and the third sort of Texts, which being both Scripture may and must be reconciled and made to stand together; which unless the rigor of the letter be on one or both sides, with intelligible and reasonable interpretations mollified, is impossible.*

*The Schoolmen to keep the literal sense of the third sort of Texts, interpret the first sort thus; the words of Joseph, It was not you that sent me hither, but God, they interpret in this manner,*

