The Religion of the *Jews* was choaked up with an Excess of Rituality, as that of the *Gentiles* was corrupted with various Impurities and wretched Superstitions, when our Saviour came to reform the one and the other. Now tho' his Demands were perfectly reasonable, and would presently have appear'd so to Minds disengaged and free; yet, as the Methods to which Men have been early and long accustomed, have always a powerful Hold of them, his Endeavours in this Way met with no friendly Reception, nor kind Construction; some of his own Relations and Friends suspected him (*s*) *besides himself*, whilst others more plainly pronounced upon him, that he (*t*) *had a Devil*: And even the Spirit, which he sent to supply his Absence, had no better Treatment from *certain* (*u*) *Philosophers of the* Epicureans *and* Stoicks, who *encounter'd* our Apostle speaking and acting by it, when they put their insulting Query to him, *What will this Babbler say?* Whilst *other some*, in Language little less affrontive, censured him as a *Setter-forth of strange Gods*, because he *preached unto them Jesus and the Resurrection.*

These were severally the Difficulties, which our blessed Lord had in View to conquer, before he could hope to succeed in his gracious Purpose, of building and adorning his holy

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(*s*) *St.* Mark iii. 21.
(*t*) *St.* John x. 20.
(*u*) Acts xvii.

Temple,