among all ranks of men; the whole nation in confuſion and under aſtoniſhment by the *deteſtable fact* of this day; and all this occaſioned by the *kingdom's being firſt divided againſt it ſelf.* I therefore judg'd theſe words very proper for our meditation upon this ſolemn occaſion, when we are aſſembled to lament the ſins of our fathers, to aſk pardon of God for what is paſt, and to fortify our minds with ſuch conſiderations as may tend to the preventing the like miſeries for the future.

The words were ſpoken by our Lord upon occaſion of the wicked blaſphemy of the Phariſees, in aſcribing his miraculous and glorious works to the Prince of the devils. To ſhew the folly and abſurdity of which ſuggeſtion our Lord's reply was to this purpoſe; That for the Prince of the devils to enable him to work ſuch miracles, particularly to diſpoſſeſs ſome of his inferior ſpirits of the bodies of miſerable men, and this in confirmation of a Doctrine which was deſigned to diſpoſſeſs them of their ſouls alſo, would be

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