

fall, and the flames will be general all over the earth; but when the fire shall have devoured all the impurities it contains; when it shall be vitrified and rendered transparent as a crystal, the saints and the blessed spirits will return and take possession of it, and their remain till the day of judgement.

All these hypotheses, appear at the first glance, to be rash and extravagant assertions; yet the author has managed them with such address, and treated them with such strength, that they cease to appear absolutely chimerical. He supports his subjects with as much science, and as much ingenuity as belong to them; and it is surprising that, from a mixture of ideas so very absurd, a system could be formed with an air of probability. It has not affected vulgar minds so much as it has dazzled the eyes of the learned, because they are more easily deceived by the glare of erudition, and the power of novel ideas. Mr. Whiston was a celebrated astronomer, in the constant habit of considering the heavens, observing the stars, and contemplating the wonderful course of nature: he could never persuade himself that this small grain of sand, this Earth which we inhabit, occupied more the attention of the Creator than the universe, the vast extent of which
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