

THE ARGVMENT OF THE EPISTLE OF S. PAVL TO THE COLOSSIANS.

The Epiftle to the Colofians is not only in fenfe, but almoft in words alfo, al one with the Epiftle to the Ephesians, and was fent alfo by the fame meffenger Ty-chicus: *c. 4. v. 7.* And in it he maketh like mention of his bands and fufferings. *c. 1. v. 24.* and *c. 4. v. 3, 18.* And therefore no doubt it was written at Rome at the fame time, to wit, in his laft apprehenfion, yet before he knew of his martyrdom.

This difference there is, that he had himfelf preached to the Ephesians, but with the Colofians he had neuer been, as he fignifieth, *c. 2. v. 1.* Therefore although in matters of exhortation he be here briefer then to the Ephesians, yet in matters of doctrine he is longer. And generally he affureth them that to be the truth, which their Apoftle Epaphras had taught them, but namely he giueth them warning both of the Iudaical Falfe-apoftles, who fought to corrupt thẽ with fome ceremonies of Moyfes law; & alfo of the Platonike Philofophers, who reiected Chrift (who is indeed the Head of the Church and the Mediatour to bring vs to God) and inftead of him, brought in certaine Angels as more excellent then he, whom they termed, *Minores Dij*, teaching the people to facrifice vnto them (calling that, humilitie) that they might bring them to the great God. With which falfehood the herefie of Simon Magus a long time deceiued many, as we read in *Epiphan. Hæref. 21.*

Againft fuch therfore S. Paul telleth the Colofians, that Chrift is the Creatour of al the Angels, God in perfon, the Head of the Church, the principal in al refpects: that he is the Redeemer, Mediatour, and pacifier between God and men, and therfore by him we muft goe to God, fo that whether we pray our felues, or defire any other in earth or in Heauen to pray for vs, al muft be done (as the Cath. Church in euery Collect doth) *Per Chriftum Dominum noſtrum*, that is, *through Chrift our Lord*, or *per Do. noſtrum Iefum Chriftum filium tuum, qui tecum viuít & regnat, &c.* Whereby the Church

profeffeth continually againft fuch feduction, both the
Mediatourship, and the Godhead of Chrif.