

THE ARGVMENT OF THE EPISTLE OF S. IAMES

This Epiftle (as the reft following) is directed fpecially, as S. Auguftin faith, againft the errour of only faith, which fome held at that time alfo, by mifconftuing S. Paules words. Yea not only that, but many other errorrs (which then alfo were annexed vnto it, as they are now) doth this Apoftle here touch exprefly.

He faith therefore, that not only faith, but alfo good workes are neceffarie: that not only faith, but alfo good workes doe iuftifie: that they are acts of Religion, or feruice and worship of God: that to keep al the commandements of God, and fo to abftaine from al mortal finne, is not impoffible, but neceffarie: that God is not author of finne, no not fo much as of temptation to finne: that we muft ftay our felues from finning, with feare of our death, of the Iudgement, of hel: and ftirre our felues to doing of good, with our reward that we fhall haue for it in heauen. Thefe points of the Catholike faith he commendeth earneftly vnto vs, inueighing vehemently againft them that teach the contrarie errorrs. Howbeit he doth withal admonish not to neglect fuch, but to feeke their conuerfion, fhewing them how meritorious a thing that is. Thus then he exhorteth generally to al good workes, & dehortheth from al finne. But yet alfo namely to certaine, and from certaine: as, from acception of perfons, from detraction and rash iudging, from concupifcence and loue of this world, from fwearing: and to praier, to almes, to humilitie, confeffion and penance: but moft comioufly to patience in perfecution.

Now, who this Iames was: It is not he, whose feaft the Church keepeth the 25. of Iulie, which was S. Iohns brother, and whose martyrdom we haue *Act. 12.* but he, whom the Church worshipping the firft of Maie, who is called *Frater Domini, our Lordes brother*, and brother to Iude, and which was the firft Bishop of Hierufalem, of whom we read, *Act. 15.* and *21.* and alfo *Gal. 2.* of whose wonderful aufteritie and puritie of life, the Ecclefiaftical ftories doe report. *Euseb. li. 2. c. 22. Hiero. in Catalogo.*

Which Iames
wrot this
Epiftle.

Therefore as the old High-Priest had power and charge ouer the Iewes, not only in Hierufalem and Iurie, but also difperfed in other Countries (as we vnderftand *Act. 9. v. 1. & 2.*) fo S. Iames likewise, being Bishop of Hierufalem, and hauing care not only of thofe Iewes with whom he was refident there in Iurie, but of al the reft
Ia. 1. also, writeth this Epiftle, *To the twelue Tribes that are in difperfion.* And in them, to al Chriftians vniuerfally difperfed through the world.