

THE ARGVMENT OF S. IOHNS THREE EPIS- TLES.

*Higinus ep. 1.
to. 1. Con-
cil. Auguft.
li. 2. Euang.
quæft. q. 39.*

Of S. Iohn was faid in the *Argument before his Ghofpel*. Now here follow his three Epiftles: one to al Catholikes (though fome ancient doe cal it, *Ad Parthos*;) the other two being very short, vnto a certaine Ladie, & to one Gaius. The effect of al is, to witnes vnto them the certaintie of the Catholike faith, & to exhort them to continue ftill in it: alfo to loue the Catholike Church, and fo, neither to become heretikes, nor Schifmatikes: but rather to auoid al fuch, as the fore-runners of Antichrift, and to remember, that Catholikes need not to goe to fchoole to any fuch Maifters, hauing at home in the Catholike Church, the doctrine of the Holy Ghofte himfelf, who was giuen to the Church vifibly in the beginning, to lead her into al truth, and to continue with her for euer. Therefore he faith: *That which you haue heard from the beginning, let it abide in you.* Likewife a litle after, *v. 27. and ep. 2. v. 6. This is the commandement, that as you haue heard from the beginning, you walke in the fame, becaufe many feducers are gone out into the world. and v. 8. & 9.*

*De fid. &
op. c. 14.*

1. Iohn. 2. & 5.

And not only thus in general, but alfo in particular he expreffeth the points which the heretikes did then cal in queftion. Some were about Chrift himfelf. For they denied that IESVS is Chrift, that he is the very Sonne of God, that he is incarnate. *Ep. 1. c. 2. v. 22. and Ep. 2. v. 7.* And againft fuch it was that he wrote his Ghofpel alfo, as he there fignifieth *Iohn. 20. v. 31.* Other points are about our iuftification, againft only faith, and for good workes, as alfo S. Aug. noted, whose words were cited before. Hereupon he faith: *If we fay we haue focietie with God, and walke in darkenes, we lie. Ep. 1. c. 1.* Againe, *He that faith he knoweth God, and keepeth not his commandements, is a lier.* Againe, *This is the charitie of God, that we keep his commandements, and his commandements are not heauie.* Finally, *Children let no man feduce you. He that doth iuftice, is iuft, euen as he is iuft. Ep. 1. c. 3. v. 7. 8. 9.* Likewife *c. 2.*

v. 29. and indeed in al the three Epiftles throughout,
he doth inculcate good workes & keeping the comman-
dements, againft the herefie of only faith.