

Why this Exertion? Why this strange Regard
from Heav'n's Omnipotent indulg'd to Man? —
Because, in Man, the glorious, dreadful Power,
extremely to be Pain'd, or Blest, for *Ever*.

Duration gives Importance; swells the Price.

An Angel, if a Creature of a Day,

what would He be? A Trifle of no Weight;
or Stand, or Fall; no Matter which; He's gone.

Because IMMORTAL, therefore is indulg'd
this strange Regard of Deities to Dust.

Hence, Heav'n looks down on Earth with all her Eyes:

Hence, the Soul's mighty Moment in her Sight:

Hence, ev'ry Soul has Partisans Above,
and ev'ry Thought a Critic in the Skies:

Hence, Clay, vile Clay! has Angels for its Guard,
and ev'ry Guard a Passion for his Charge:

Hence, from all Age, the Cabinet divine
has held high Counsel o'er the Fate of Man.

Nor have the Clouds those gracious Counsels hid,
Angels undrew the Curtain of the Throne,

and PROVIDENCE came forth to meet Mankind:

In various Modes of Emphasis and Awe;

He spoke his Will, and trembling *Nature* heard;

He spoke it loud, in Thunder, and in Storm.

Witness, Thou *Sinai*! whose Cloud-cover'd Height,

and shaken Basis, own'd the present GOD;

Witness, ye *Billows*! whose returning Tide,

breaking