

Paradise Lost

Book 4th

No 2

Paradise Lost 1st Book No. 2.

("Uriel") The next commanding angel
to Gabriel; his name in Hebrew is, "the
strength of God" - ("As ^{flame} they part") They
part as the flame divides into separate
wreaths. ("Half wheeling to the Shield, half
to the Spear") As all the Angels stood
in the eastern gate, their right hand
was to the north, "to the Spear;" their
left hand to the south, "to the Shield."
From these that wheel'd to the Spear
Gabriel call'd out two: He himself
was then in that company. ("Michael
and Tophon") Two Angels having their
names as indication of their offices.
Michael in Hebrew, "the discovery of
God." Tophon in Hebrew, a secret or
searcher of secrets. ("There sitting where
we durst not soar") As sitting is

frequently used in the Scriptures,
for a posture that implies a high
rank of dignity and power; Satan
by this expression intimates his
great superiority over them, that
he had the privilege to sit, as an
Angel of figure and authority, in
an eminent part of Heaven, where
they durst not soar, where they did
not presume even to come. ("Think
not, revolted spirit, thy shape the same
or undiminished brightness to be known)
Think not thy shape the same, or
undiminished brightness to be known
now, as it was formerly in Heaven.

("It is with who bound us") wilt thou
object? ("Wilt thou knowst I stand
thy fiercest") Thy fiercest attack.
("And practised distances to cringe, not
fight.") With is understood before
practised. ("Arreed") To decree, to
award. ("I drag thee") The present
for the future. ("And seal thee so")
This seems to allude to the chaining
of the dragon, that old serpent, which
is the Devil & Satan, mentioned in the
revelation: "And he cast him into the
bottomless pit, and shut him up,
and set a seal upon him." ("And
limitary Cherub") Limitary, set to
guard the bounds; a taunt insulting
the good Angel as one employed on
a little mean office. The word seems

intended as a scornful sneer upon
what Gabriel had just said, "if
from this hour within these hal-
lowed limits thou appear" ("Ride
on thy wings") This seems to allude
to Ezekiel's vision, where 4 cherubim
are appointed to the four wheels -
Chapter 1. 10. 11. 22 ver: "And the
cherubim did lift up their wings
and the wheels beside them, and
the glory of the god of Israel was
over them above." ("with ported
spears") with their borne pointed
towards them. A military term.
("unremoved") for immoveable.
("Jenerippe") The peak of Teneriffe.
("Retwixt Astrea and the Scorpion
sign") Libra or the Scales

is one of the twelve signs of the
zodiac, as Astrea (or Virgo, the Vir-
gin) and Scorpio also are. ("Wherem
all things created first he weighed")
This of weighing the creation at first
and of all events since gives us
a sublime idea of Providence, and
is conformable to the style of Scrip-
ture. 2dth chap: Job, 28. ver: "To make
the weights for the winds, and he weigh-
eth the waters by measure." Chap
37. 16 ver: "Dost thou know the bal-
-ancings of the clouds?" Isaiah
40th chap: 12. ver: "who weighed the
mountains in scales, and the hills
in a balance." And then for weigh-
ing particular events since, 1st Samuel
2^d. chap. 3. ver: "By him actions are
weighed. Proverbs 16 chap: 2^d. ver:

"The Lord weigheth the spirits" we see an instance in Belshazzar of "weighing kingdoms" Daniel 5th chap: 26. 27. ver: "God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it; thou art weighed in the balances"

(The sequel each of parting and of fight) God put in the golden scales two weights; in the one scale he put the weight, which was the sequel, that is represented the consequence, of Satan's parting from them; in the other scale he put the weight, which was the sequel of Satan's "fighting"

Neither of the scales had any thing in it, immediately relating

to Gabriel. The scale in which lay the weight, that was the sequel of his fighting, by ascending showed him that he was light in arms; and could not obtain victory; whereas the other scale, in which was the sequel of his parting or retreating, having descended, it was a sign that his going off quietly would be his wisest and weightiest attempt ("since thine no more than Heaven permits, nor mine") Thine and mine refer to strength.

("where thou art weighed, and thou how light, how weak") He does not make the ascending scale the sign of victory, but of lightness and weakness, according to that of

Belsahhar Dan: Chap: 5th 25
ver: "Thou art weighed in the ba-
-lance, and found wanting."