

Paradise Regained

Book 3^d
3

Paradise regained 5th book.

("hrim and Thummin") hrin signifies
light and Thummin perfection. ("My
years are ripe, and over ripe") Our
Saviour's Temptation was soon af-
ter his baptism, and he was bap-
tized when he was about 30 y.^{rs}
of age. ("And the son of Macedonian
Philip") Alexander the Great ("had
ere these") before these years, - Alex-
ander was but 20 when he began to
reign, and died in this 33rd year.
("Young Scipio") Scipio Africanus
was no more than 24 y.^{rs} old
when he was sent proconsul
into Spain, and was only between
20 and 29 when he was chosen
consul before the usual time, and

Transferred the war into Africa.
With regard to Pompey, our author
is not so exact as the rest, for
when Pompey was sent to command
the war in Asia, against Mithri-
dates King of Pontus, he was above
40. Pompey and Cicero were born
in the same year; and the Mani-
lian law, which gave the command
in Asia to Pompey was renewed
when Cicero was in his 41th year.
("wrote that he had lived so long
inglorious") Alluding to a story re-
lated of Julius Caesar; ("He asked
thee, Hast thou seen my servant
Job") 1 chap. Job. 8th verse. "And
the Lord said unto Satan, Hast
thou considered my servant Job?"

that there is none like him in the
earth, a perfect and an upright
man, one that feareth God, and
escheweth evil!" ("One is the son of
love, of man the other") By the
former is meant Alexander, by
the latter, Romulus. ("If young
African for fame, His wasted coun-
try freed from Punic rage") This
shows plainly that he had spoken
before of the elder Scipio Africa-
nus; for he only can be said with
propriety to have freed his wasted
country from Punic rage, by trans-
ferring the war into Spain and Afri-
ca after the ravages which Hanni-
bal had committed in Italy during
the 2^d. Punic war. ("I feel not

mine, but he who sent me") St. John's
Gospel 8th chap. 49, 50. verses. "I honor
my Father, I seek not mine own glory"
("Reduced a province under Roman yoke")
Judaea was reduced to the form of a Ro-
man province, in the reign of Augus-
tus, by Quirinius or Cyrenius, then gov-
ernor of Syria; and Coponius, a Roman
of the equestrian order was appoin-
ted to govern it under the title of
Procurator of Judaea; our Saviour
being then in the 12th year of his
age ("nor is always ruled with tem-
perate sway") At this time Pontius
Pilatus was governor of Judaea; and
if history be true, he was a most
corrupt and flagitious governor ("oft
have they violated the temple")

As Pompey did with several of his
officers, who entered not only into the
holy place, but also penetrated
into the holy of holies, where none
were permitted by the law to enter ex-
cept the high priest alone once in
a year on the great day of ex-
piation ("So did not Maccabees")
The Tempter had compared the pro-
fanation of the temple by the Ro-
mans to that by Antiochus Epipha-
nes, king of Syria; and now he w^d
infer that Jesus was to blame for
not vindicating his country against
the one, as Judas Maccabees had
done against the other. He fled in-
deed into the wilderness from the
persecutions of Antiochus, but there
he took up arms against him, and

-famed to many victories over his
forces, that he recovered the city &
sanctuary out of their hands, and
his family was in his brother's
-than advanced to the high priesthood
and in his brother Simon to the prin-
cipality, and so they continued for se-
veral descents, sovereign pontiffs &
sovereign princes of the Jewish na-
tion till the time of Herod the Great,
tho' their father Mathathias, was
no more than a priest, and dwelt
at Modin, which is famous for
nothing so much as being the coun-
try of the Maccabees. For their
history see the 1st book Maccabees.
("And time there is for all things
God hath said") 3^d chap: Ecclesiastes
1 verse. "To every thing there is a

season, and a time to every purpose under
Heaven". ("He in whose hand at times &
seasons weh") 1 chap. Acts. 17th verse. "It
is not for you to know the times or
the seasons, which the Father hath
put in his own power". ("And once a
year Jerusalem") At the feast of the
passover. ^{2 c. Luke 41 v} ("As he who seeking asses
found a kingdom") Saul, who seeking
his father's lost asses, came to Samuel,
and by him was anointed king. The
story is related in 1 Samuel 9th chap.
20. 21 v.
("Here Nineveh") This city was situa-
ted on the Tigris; its circuit was 60
miles, and ^{by} of length within her wall is
meant of circuit within her wall
several day's journey, that is for a
loose traveler; ("built by Nimrod"
and after him called Nineveh, [of that
first golden monarchy the seat]) a capi-

the city of the Assyrian empire, ~~which~~
("and seat of Salmanassar") who in
the reign of Hezekiah King of Judah
carried the 10 tribes captive into
Assyria, 721 y^{rs} before Christ; so ~~that~~
("There Babylon") Babylon was on the
river Euphrates; ("the wonder of all
tongues") it was reckoned among the 7 won-
ders of the world. ("as ancient") as
Nineveh, for some say it was built
by Belus, others by Semiramis, the one
the father the other the wife of Ninus.
("but rebuilt by him") by Nebuchadne-
zar. 4 chap. Daniel, 30th verse. ("who trans-
ferred Judah captive") in the reign of Jehoiachin
2^d Kings 24th chap. and 11 y^{rs} after in the
reign of Zedekiah ("laid waste Jerusalem")
in which desolate condition it lay many
years ("till Cyrus set them free") and resto-
red the Jews to their country. 1 and 2 Chan-

82 ra. ("Persepolis this city") The city of Cyrus.
made by him the capital city of the Persian
empire; ("and Bactra there") the chief city of
Bactria, a province of Persia, famous for
its fruitfulness. ("Ecbatana") the metropo-
lis of Media. ("And Hecatompylos") the
name signifies a city with a 100 gates, &
so the capital city of Parthia was called.
("There Susa") the Shushan of the Scrip-
tures, the royal seat of the kings of Persia,
who resided here in winter and at Ecbatana
in Summer ("by Choaspes") on the river Cho-
aspes, or Eulaeus, or Helai, as it is called
in Daniel, or on the confluence of these two
rivers, which meeting at Susa form one grea-
ter river, sometimes called by one name,
sometimes by the other. ("The drink of none
but kings") ~~Some~~ Some authors speak of this
river as if drunk by none but the Persian
kings; but many others are silent on the
subject. ("of later fame") Cities of later date,
("built by Emathian") that is Macedonian

the successors of Alexander in Asia, (or
by Parthian hands, the great Selencia")
built near the river Tigris, by Selenus In-
cator, one of Alexander's captains. ("Misibis")
another city on the Tigris, called also An-
tiochia. ("Artaxata") the chief city of
Armenia, upon the river Araxes. ("Teredon")
a city near the Persian gulf, below the con-
fluence of Euphrates & Tigris. ("Ctesiphon")
near Selencia, the winter residence of
the Parthian kings ("In Ctesiphon hath
gathered all his host") the Parthian kings
made Ctesiphon their winter residence
to prevent the incursions of the barbarians
Scythians; it is described as a place able
to contain a vast multitude, and all pre-
parations and provisions for them. ("Sogdiana")
was the province next adjoining. ("Rhombus
and wedges") Rhombus, figured of 4 sides, which
being converted into one of three sides, makes
a wedge. ("Aracosia") near the river Indus
("Candaor") the Candari, a people of India

mentioned by Pliny. ("Margarina & Hyrcania
and Int. Caucasus & Iberia") to the north. The
Iberia, is called dark as the country a-
bounded with forests. ("Atropatia") lay
west of Media ("Atrabene") was the wes-
tern part of Babylonia. ("Susiana") lay
on the South, extending to the Persian gulf.
("Balsara's haven") the same as Teredon.
("and flying behind them shot") the custom of
the Parthians shooting their arrows behind
them, & overcoming by flight is well known.
("elephants indur'd with towers") the word in-
dorte here means to cover on the back-
obsolete. ("When African") what Milton
here alludes to is related in Boiardo's Or-
lando Innamorato. ("The fairer of her sex
Angelica") mentioned in Orlando Furioso.
("Antigonus and old Hyrcanus bound") The Par-
thians led Hyrcanus away captive to Se-
lencia, after his eyes were put out, & when
he was past 70, but instead of leading away
Antigonus captive, they made him king of
the Jews, and the Romans deprived him of his

kingdom. ("In Habor, and among the Medes dis-
-persed") These were the 10 tribes, whom Shalma-
-neser King of Assyria carried away captive.
2^d Kings 18th chap 11th verse. "and put them in
Halah and in Habor by the river of Fox an
and in the cities of the Medes" ("From Egypt
to Euphrates") That is the Kingdom of Israel
in its utmost extent, for thus the land was
promised to Abraham 15th chap Gene. 10th v.
and the extent of Solomon's Kingdom is thus
described 1 Kings 4th chap. 21. v. ("My time is
not yet come") 2^d chap Jos. 4th v. 7th chap
6 ver. ("when thou stoodst up") 1 Chron. 21. chap. 1 v.
("By 3 days pestilence") 4th verse. same chap: ("As for
those captive tribes") The captivity of the ten tribes was
the punishment of their idolatry. ("Baal next & Ashteroth")
Rhab, he, 1 Kings 16th chap 32^d v. & at the same time was in-
troduced the worship of Ashteroth 1 Kings 11th chap 5 v.
("And at their passing cleave the Assyrian flood")
There are several prophecies of the restoration
of Israel, but this seems to allude to 16th chap.
Reve: 12th v. And to 11th chap Isaiah. 15th
& 16th verses.