THE ŒDIPUS ROMANUS; OR, AN ATTEMPT TO PROVE, FROM THE PRINCIPLES OF REASONING ADOPTED BY THE RT. HON. SIR WILLIAM DRUMMOND, IN HIS ŒDIPUS JUDAICUS, THAT THE TWELVE CÆSARS ARE THE TWELVE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC

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The Œdipus Romanus; Or, an Attempt to Prove, from the Principles of Reasoning Adopted by the Rt. Hon. Sir William Drummond, in His Œdipus Judaicus, That the Twelve Cæsars Are the Twelve Signs of the Zodiac by G. Townsend

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TWELVE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC.

ADDRESSED TO THE HIGHER AND LITERARY CLASSES OF SOCIETY.

BY THE REV. G. TOWNSEND, A. M.

OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

O tenebris tantis, tam clarum extollere lumen
Qui primus potuisti—
Te sequor—
Non ita certandi cupidus, quam propter a morem
Quod te imitari aveo.

Lucretius. Lib. 3. *l.* 11.

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TO THE HIGHER AND LITERARY CLASSES OF SOCIETY.

When the noble and the learned author of the Œdipus Judaicus determined to confine his wonderful discovery of the real sense of the Hebrew Scriptures, no longer to the walls of his study, and the circle of his friends; he made his appeal to you, Gentlemen, as the proper tribunal to decide on its merit, and pretensions. Among you his book has been extensively circulated. It is purchased with eagerness, when accidentally exposed to sale: it still excites among you, great attention, and gives

rise to frequent conversation. Under these circumstances, I have been much surprised that none of its numerous admirers have applied the principles of reasoning adopted by Sir William Drummond to the elucidation of other Histories, than those in the Old Testament. Seven years have elapsed since it was first submitted to your approbation, yet its author has never been congratulated by any of his friends, or followers. Entertaining, as I do, an equal respect for his candor, his courage, his moderation, his ingenuity, and the useful object to which he has devoted his time, his talents, and his learning; I trust he will permit me to assure him, that I consider his discoveries too valuable and meritorious to be reserved only for the literary world. The public in general always have been, and ever will be interested in the opinions of

their superiors; and I wish therefore to gratify their curiosity, and enlarge the peculiar fame of Sir William Drummond, by proving to them, on his principles, You being my Judges, that they have as much misapprehended the sense of History, as that of Scripture; and that there is equal reason to believe the twelve Cæsars to be the twelve Signs of the Zodiac, as that the narratives of the Hebrew Scriptures are a collection of astronomical emblems.

It has repeatedly been made a subject of applause, that our countrymen have ever shown themselves averse to new plans, new systems, and new theories, whether in politics or religion. Sir William Drummond, therefore, must be content on this account to observe the very slow progress which his novel and

astonishing mode of interpreting the Scripture has hitherto made among the learned and thinking classes of Society; as the humble admirer of his mighty project, I too am prepared to meet with a similar reception. When the Christian and philosophical world can be convinced that the first books of scripture, instead of presenting us with a history of real persons and events, contain only an allegorical representation of the progress of astronomy, and the reform of the calendar: that the three hundred and eighteen servants of Abraham, are so many days; that the red sea is the concave hemisphere; and that when the men of Ai, smote of the Israelites six and thirty men, and chased them from the Gate even unto Shebarim, they were in reality the men of the calendar who smote thirty-six, amounting to the decans, the divisions

of the Zodiac, and of the year, and chased them even to fractions: and the reason of their overthrow was, that the men of the calendar, aforesaid, took of the accursed thing, that is, of the symbols of the lunar year—When the truly enlightened and unprejudiced reader is convinced of these things, then, and not till then, will he be persuaded that the twelve Cæsars also are the twelve Signs of the Zodiac: that Caius Julius Cæsar is the ram, and that the passage of the Rubicon is merely typical of the Sun's cutting the Equator, with many other most singular and surprising discoveries.

Whatever impression we may succeed in making on the more philosophical part of the community, I much fear we shall find but few converts in our two Universities.