

Popish Religion be the right? This might have had more weight with me, but for the vain fooleries that are in it, together with their lying miracles and cruel persecutions of the saints." But finally, new troubles came, and the world seemed filled with blasphemy and sectaries, and some sincere Christians, she says, were carried away with them, so that she had queried, "Is there faith upon the earth?"

Mrs. Bradstreet's minor pieces both in prose and verse are over pious. There is scarcely a page but refers to God, the bible, Christ or religion. She is pervaded through and through with religious zeal, and seems to think there is no other style but the religious fit for a good literary work. "All the treasures of this world," she says, "are husks, for they have no kernel in them. * * * * The wisest man said all is vanity and vexation of spirit." I mention these things to show what were the Puritan sentiments of her time. Of course their philosophy and crude ideas of providence were all wrong; and God had no more to do with their simple lives than he has with ours. Every event happened according to the eternal laws of nature.

She exalts faith more even than St. Paul, saying, "It hath stayed the course of the sun, raised the dead, cast out *devils*," reversed the order of nature, quenched the violence of the fire, &c., nay more; it hath overcome the Omnipotent himself, for when Moses interceded for the people, God said to him, 'let me alone, that I may destroy them,' as if Moses had been able, by the hand of faith, to hold the everlasting arms of the mighty God of Jacob." She would probably mix more science with her faith if writing in this age. Mrs. B. would in politics be a free trader now, for she says, "God hath so ordered that no one country hath all commodities within itself, but what it wants, another shall supply, that so there may be a mutual commerce through the world."

In the Dialogue of the Four Elements very little science is displayed by our learned authoress. She does not mention the internal heat of the earth, nor the earth's motions on its axis and round the sun. The constellations are named; but they were known to some of the bible-writers as early as the time of Job. The air is described as sometimes being changed to water. She says, "what the antient sages writ is more authentic than our modern wit." The air is the cause of earthquakes, according to her philosophy. A sure antidote to poison, she says, lies in the horn of the unicorn. Chemistry is mentioned and the transmutation of metals; but