

From the Works of Methodius Against Porphyry.



I.<sup>2976</sup>

This, in truth, must be called most excellent and praiseworthy, which God Himself considers excellent, even if it be despised and scoffed at by all. For things are not what men think them to be.

II.<sup>2977</sup>

Then repentance effaces every sin, when there is no delay after the fall of the soul, and the disease is not suffered to go on through a long interval. For then evil will not have power to leave its mark in us, when it is drawn up at the moment of its being set down like a plant newly planted.

III.<sup>2978</sup>

In truth, our evil comes out of our want of resemblance to God, and our ignorance of Him; and, on the other hand, our great good consists in our resemblance to Him. And, therefore, our conversion and faith in the Being who is incorruptible and divine, seems to be truly our proper good, and ignorance and disregard of Him our evil; if, at least, those things which are produced in us and of us, being the evil effects of sin, are to be considered ours.

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2976 From the *Parallels* of St. John Damascene, *Opera*, tom. ii. p. 778, ed. Lequien.

2977 *Ibid.*, p. 784, B.

2978 *Ibid.*, p. 785, E.