

upon the profession or community of which he is so unworthy a member, and of hindering its profitable progress in the world.

Sensible of the high importance of the duties enjoined in the text, to all Christians, and so congenial to the spirit and practice of our excellent order, I have thought it a suitable subject to engage our present meditations; and, though I lament the shortness of notice, to the call of this my duty, I shall endeavour, though briefly, yet plainly, to set before you some of the fatal consequences of a defect in the due discharge of the duties enjoined upon us in the text; and then enforce our general, as well as particular, obligations thereunto;—and

1st. The deepest, and most to be lamented source of human misery, is, that in the fall of Adam we lost our likeness to the Deity, in that first and most prevailing characteristic of His Divine nature and essence, *love*;—the loss of this which produced, or at least made way for *envy*, *malice*, *revenge*, and all those evil tempers and dispositions, which now so universally prevail in the human heart, *stamped*, in early day, that black and detestable character of murderer upon Cain, and sent him forth an accursed and detestable vagabond upon the earth.—It is the loss of this characteristic of the Divine Nature, in its prevailing efficacy, which, in all ages of the world, hath unsheathed the bloody sword of the
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