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Miscellaneous Articles.

CAIN AND ABEL.

The advancement which has been made in the arts and sciences within these fifty years past by some of the most enlightened nations, has been great, and if they were to continue advancing in the same ratio for fifty years to come, we might anticipate a revolution in the affairs of our world, such as has never yet been witnessed by any of its oldest inhabitants. But there are set limits to the knowledge and discoveries of human beings, which they cannot pass; and when they have reached the utmost extent of those limits in the acquisition of human science, it will be found, just as it has been found in past ages, that the finite has come no nearer to the infinite in the scale of moral being on that account, and no nearer to happiness in the economy of grace. The grand distinction between the finite and the infinite, the Creator and the creature, will still remain, and the following statement, which may be seen engraved on the page of history as with the point of a diamond, will hold true. It is the knowledge and belief of the Bible, and of the Bible alone, that can raise the soul of man to an assimilation to the Deity, and a participation in his favour and bliss. In possessing the Bible, therefore, we possess an advantage over other nations which have it not, that cannot be too highly appreciated. They may have had the knowledge of philosophy, and of the arts and sciences, for hundreds or thousands of years; but, in addition to such knowledge, we enjoy a direct revelation from Heaven concerning this world and the future, concerning the way of life and salvation. They may have had histories of the world, and biographies of men who have lived upon it, speaking to them for hundreds or thousands of years; but in the Sacred Volume we have histories and biographies of men speaking to us thousands of years prior to any other—histories and biographies authenticated to us by the pen of inspiration and the finger of God, and containing in a single paragraph or verse more solid and useful, because more important information, than can be found in all other volumes besides.

These remarks have been suggested to the writer, on reading and reflecting on the fourth verse of the eleventh chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, where it is stated, that "by faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts, and by it he, being dead, yet speaketh," compared with the history of the transaction referred to, as narrated in the fourth chapter of the book of