

that believeth. It is this universal fitness to promote the best interests of our race, this wonderful adaptation to every variety of character, age, condition, and circumstance, that constitutes one of the strongest evidences of the Truth of Revelation, and proves it to have been derived from the Father of Lights, who knew what was *in* man, and what was needful *for* man in this his dependent and probationary state.

The term *Godliness* in the text, though in its more general acceptation expressive of likeness to God, or conformity to his moral character, is applicable in detail to every branch of practical religion. This conformity can only be obtained in the manner, and on the principles, unfolded to us in the Scriptures of truth. The whole contents of the Sacred Volume, as relating to man, may be contemplated under two aspects,—as a Code of Morals, and as a Dispensation of Mercy; the one to prove and regulate his obedience, and the other to point out to him the way of salvation. In both these lights I wish to present the sacred oracles before you in reference to the subject which is to engage our consideration, and to shew their influence in the formation of that *godliness which is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come*; contributing as effectively to our real welfare in the present state as to our preparation for the bliss of eternity.

I. AS A CODE OF MORALS, the system promulgated in the word of God is immeasurably superior to all others that the world has ever seen. Those who have