

hair from our heads
pire.

ed secondly, in what
ents coming from the
thing beautiful in his

referring to creation,
, and their truth for
men, and those only
ed spirit, are insen-
the works of nature.
hill and dale; the
n in its surpassing
erless stars tremble
eat sea, now tossed
calm and mirror-
as they open their
tiful, berding be-
inter is beautiful,

Every organism,
man ever yet de-
the beauty appro-
tem. The tiniest
urnish in all their
ation of the natu-
shes every feature
airable,—I might
loveliness which
dence. "Think,"

ne,

Doubtless we less easily recognise the latter description of loveliness than the former. Viewed from a particular position, the lines in the countenance of Providence often seem harsh and forbidding; but they are not so in reality. All the particulars of the divine procedure are beautiful in their respective seasons.

Their beauty lies in their fitness to promote the best and highest ends. We assume that God, in his providential dealings, acts invariably with some end, some good and excellent end worthy of himself. Were events casual,—or, since this language has no very intelligible signification, were they not determined by a superintending Providence,—there would be no room for the question, What is the end or purpose of a particular dispensation? Why has it been sent? On the supposition made, it could not properly be said to have been sent at all. But if we have a persuasion that God takes an universal superintendence of human affairs, so that not a change, however slight, can befall us except as ordained by Him, we are then compelled to believe that each event of Providence is meant to serve a purpose,—a purpose answerable to the perfections of Him by whom the wheels of providence are moved. Now it is in this that the beauty of God's providential works consists; that, as they are designed, so they are adapted to accomplish the most excellent results. Does prosperity shine with a steady and augmenting lustre upon your heads? Or, on the contrary, have reverses clouded your temporal prospects? In either case, the dispensation is beautiful in its time, as it has been ordered, and wisely ordered, with a view to your greatest final benefit: that is, if you are a believer; because it is only to believers—to them that love God and are the called according to his purpose—that the statement applies, "All things work together for good." Is *this* family for a long series of years unbroken by death, and *that* visited with numerous