

and a holier world than the world of ideas or the beautiful world of material forms. This world quickly passeth away, but that is your abiding place. God, in his goodness, has vouchsafed to his intelligent creatures an inexhaustible fund of enjoyment in the contemplation of his wonderful works, but the devout perusal of His word and obedience to its precepts, can alone secure everlasting felicity. The aspects and operations of nature are indeed sublime and magnificent, and well worthy your diligent attention; but to enjoy them aright they must be studied as the exponents of Him who stretched forth the Heavens and laid the foundations of the Earth. An acquaintance with the laws in obedience to which the tides of the ocean rise and fall, and the mighty orbs of the boundless firmament are restrained with unswerving exactitude in their appointed courses; with those by which the winds blow, and the rains and dews of Heaven descend to refresh and fertilize the Earth; with those which determine the movements and composition of Light, and regulate the astonishing powers developed by the application of Heat; with those that control the subtle combinations of Chemistry and the amazing velocities and forces of Electricity; with those whereby the Sun vivifies and paints, and according to which germination and production in the vegetable and animal worlds are so wonderfully maintained:— a knowledge of all these, radiant with beauty as they are, and far exalted above all the objects of sense, can, at the most, afford but a temporary triumph and satisfaction to him who has not taken religion and virtue for his guide. Scientific truth is marvellous, and embellishes the universe with majestic grandeur; but moral and religious truth is divine, and invests it with that celestial light, by which he that directs his steps will regain the lost Paradise. For him a new Heaven and a new Earth have already been created. His home is the Sanctuary of God, the Holy of Holies.