

ascension into heaven; his officiating there as a Mediator and Intercessor between God and man, and as Judge of all men at the last day.

These numerous coincidences of the Koran with the facts and doctrines of the Bible, are strangely interspersed with matter the most incongruous; with extravagant fables, monstrous perversions of the truth, and ridiculous and endless puerilities. This is accounted for on the supposition, that while the authentic facts were derived immediately from the canonical Scriptures, the fictions and absurdities were deduced in part from the traditions of the Talmudic and Rabbinical writers; and in part from the apocryphal Gospels, or from the books of Adam, of Seth, of Enoch, of Noah, and other similar fabrications, well known in church history as having been extensively in use among the heretics of the first century.

ADVANTAGES OF THE DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE.—An intelligent class can scarce ever be, as a class, vicious; never, as a class, indolent. The excited mental activity operates as a counterpoise to the stimulus of sense and appetite. The new world of ideas; the new views of the relations of things; the astonishing secrets of the physical properties and mechanical powers, disclosed to the well-informed mind, present attractions, which, unless the character is deeply sunk, are sufficient to counterbalance the taste for frivolous and corrupt pleasures; and thus, in the end, a standard of character is created in the community, which, though it does not invariably save each individual, protects the virtue of the mass.—*Ercocit's Essay.*

GRATITUDE.—About a century ago, an actor celebrated for mimicry, was to have been employed by a comic author to take off the person, the manner, and the singularly awkward delivery of the celebrated Dr. Woodward, who was intended to be introduced on the stage in a laughable character. The mimic dressed himself as a countryman, and waited on the doctor with a long catalogue of ailments, which he said afflicted his wife. The physician heard with amazement diseases and pains of the most opposite nature, repeated and redoubled on the wretched patient. At length, being be-

come completely master of his errand, the actor drew from his purse a guinea, and with a scrape, made an uncouth offer of it. 'Put up thy money, poor fellow,' cried the doctor, 'put up thy money. Thou hast need of all thy cash and all thy patience too, with such a bundle of diseases tied to thy back.'—The actor returned to his employer, and recounted the whole conversation, with such true feeling of the physician's character, that the author screamed with approbation. His raptures were soon checked, for the mimic told him, with the emphasis of sensibility, that he would sooner die 'than prostitute his talents to the rendering such genuine humanity a public laughing-stock.'

A PHILOSOPHIC BREVITY.—Allowing the peerage to be the light of the nation—it is a *light* of which most of the rays are very *refractory*.

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