

energy to the surface, and change our planet into one wide and wasting volcano. The sudden formation of elastic matter in the bowels of the earth—and it lies within the agency of known substance to accomplish this—may explode it into fragments. The exhalation of noxious air from below, may impart a virulence to the air that surrounds us, and the whole of animated nature may wither and die. A blazing comet may cross us in its orbit, and realize all the terrors which superstition has conceived of it. We cannot anticipate with precision the effect of an event which every astronomer must know to lie within the limits of probability. It may hurry our globe towards the sun—or drag it to the outer regions of our planetary system—or give it a new axis of revolution;—and this would change the place of the ocean and bring another mighty flood upon our islands and continents. These are changes which may happen in an instant of time, and against which nothing known in the present system of things provides us with any security. They might not annihilate the earth, but they would unpeople it; and if the Almighty let loose the devouring elements which are in his hands, they would spread solitude, silence, and death, over the dominion of the world.

Now it is this littleness and insecurity, which makes the protection of the Almighty so dear to us, and brings with such power to every pious bosom the holy lessons of humility and gratitude. The God who sitteth above, and presides in high authority over all worlds, is mindful of man; and, though at this moment his energy is felt in the remotest provinces of creation, we may feel the same security in his providence, as if we were the objects of his undivided care. It is not for us to comprehend