

think that He is by his efforts, making the world grander, more attractive, more comfortable—in short, more to be proud of—than it was in former days. But there is One whom he has forgotten, and with whom every soul will have to do, and that is God. As to a living God, all is darkness to man ; he knows not where to find Him. Man sees, indeed, before his eyes, the gracious works of God's hands, and receives daily, from the wisdom and perfectness with which God has ordered His works, a thousand blessings ; but God Himself is unknown to him. The fool reasons in his heart that there is no God, because he does not know Him ! He might as well argue, as he stands before an edifice raised by man's labor, that there was no builder to it, because he does not know him. And if the fool forsake his folly, and profess his belief in the existence of a supreme Being, or acknowledge that there is one God, he does but increase his own condemnation, because he knows Him not ; while even if he go a step farther, and endeavor to search out God, the farther he goes, the more does the impenetrable density and terrible reality of the darkness in which he is, overwhelm his soul. How helpless is the condition of man ! Has he any resource ? From himself, none. His only hope is in God Himself. God must come forth and reveal what He is, in this world of darkness ; and faith receives this revelation. The poor soul, feeling his deep need, and knowing not where to look for light and salvation, hears with gladness the glad tidings of God's grace, told out by God's own Son,