

REPORT.

Among the principles and precepts inculcated by the Bible, that of compassion or mercy to the poor, is certainly among the prominent and oft repeated ones. The Bible does not lose sight of man in his standing and character as a social being, whilst it trains him as a religious being. And it exhorts him not merely to a practical respect for the rights of others, but also to cultivate a practical regard for the social condition of the afflicted, distressed and poor. Moreover, practical sympathy with the poor is set forth by the Word of God as the essence of acceptable worship;—yea, as a high development of the religion of Jesus Christ. The vital connexion between true religion and practical compassion for the poor, is brought out in Scripture, with much frequency and force. “Is not this the fast that I have chosen to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily.” “Pure religion and undefiled before God the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”