

Christian morals. Hence the frequency and earnestness with which our Saviour inculcates on his disciples the obligation of mutual affection and brotherly kindness. Hence the exalted terms in which the duty of almsgiving is uniformly described. Hence the ennobling pre-eminence allotted to those who have consecrated their talents to the purposes of beneficence, and who by their efforts have contributed to augment the sum of human happiness. Hence also, the impressive admonition of the Apostle in my text, "Giving all diligence, add to your—godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity." Before proceeding to recommend and enforce this admonition, I may simply observe that the "godliness" which is mentioned by the Apostle, consists of all those holy affections and dispositions which constitute the spiritual worshipper and truly devoted servant of God—that the "brotherly kindness" which he enjoins as the genuine effect of sound religious principle is an unfeigned fervent love of Christians, as brethren in the Lord—and that the "charity" which he recommends in addition to both, is not that sentimental species which is expended in mere wishes and feelings, or in occasional donations to the poor, but that active kind which seeks out its appropriate objects; which takes a close and accurate inspection of human life as it is; which devises schemes for doing good; which accounts no sacrifices too great, and no exertions too severe, in the prosecution of its godlike operations.

I propose to recommend and enforce the practical exercise of brotherly kindness and charity, by viewing its influence on our *benevolent affections—our views of human nature—our estimate of the truth and value of real religion—and our individual happiness.*

1. The exercise of brotherly kindness and charity regulates and strengthens the benevolent affections.—Amid the ruins of the fall, it is pleasing to trace some remaining vestiges of our former grandeur. Alienated as man is from God in the temper of his mind, and in his habitual conduct, he is not altogether insensible to the claims of
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