

as in the employment of irrational and inanimate creatures : though it will be allowed that it is a higher manifestation of His wisdom, and power to make beings like men his instruments, when the intention of obeying and honouring him is not once entertained, but rather repudiated by them. Their thoughts and volitions, desires and passions, so properly their own, and so uncontrollable by others, are, without suffering any violence, made to fulfil the purposes of God, as readily as the instincts which he has implanted in the lower animals, or the properties which he has communicated to inanimate matter.

Now, it is a distinct enhancement of the glory of God, in that manifestation of His character which He has made in the Gospel dispensation—what is in an eminent sense the Kingdom of God, that men are employed in it, as intelligent and voluntary instruments—yea, that they are even fellow-workers with the ever-blessed God. Indeed, in the introduction of man into this kingdom, they are treated as conscious and voluntary agents. For, while in this case there is truly a Divine power exerted upon them this is not in the way of violence to the constitution of their minds, but in harmony with it, so as that they are themselves made to choose the Son of God as their Saviour and Lord, and God himself as their Portion and God. They are made “His willing people.” And hence the propriety of the exhortation : “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling : For it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure.”—Phil. ii., 12, 13. And, as the subjects of the Kingdom of God, they are specially called to promote that kingdom in the world : this is, indeed, one of the principal objects which the Saviour seeks to accomplish through each of His people—even to increase the number of the saved,—the number of those who shall be monuments of the sovereignty and grace of God. And believers understand something of their high destination, and approve it, and study to fulfil it. Animated with the same spirit that was in Christ, they desire to honour their Father in