

ourselves ; of “ approaching Him with our lips, while our hearts are far from Him.” No secrets can be hid from His all-searching eye. And though he rejecteth not the sighing of a contrite heart, neither desireth the death of a sinner, though He is ready to aid, by His good spirit, the strugglies of returning virtue, and to receive, like a tender father, with favour and indulgence, His repentant, though prodigal son : He cannot view, without indignation, the presumptuous boldness of those weak mortals, who substitute a shew of devotion in the room of sincere virtue, of good and holy resolutions, who bow down before Him as it were in mockery, and approach Him “ with a lie in their right hand.”

THE folly of such an attempt can be surpassed only by its danger. Sensible of guilt, and of frailty, we should seek, in all humbleness of mind, some means of expiating our past offences, some prop
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