

do as he pleases, and what he pleases. "He worketh all things after the counsel of his own will;" and we know, and are sure that he never wills to do wrong, to be cruel, or unjust. All that he does is done in harmony with his nature. Now we know that his nature is love; and therefore malevolence can never in the nature of things have anything to do with his sovereign acts. If he were a malevolent Being, his sovereignty would be cruel, malevolent, malicious, malignant sovereignty. But it is delightful to know that the sovereignty of God partakes of the nature of the benevolent Being who exercises it.

This doctrine is in perfect harmony with reason, and with the book of revelation.

Some have supposed that the expression, "*who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will*," teaches that God in his sovereignty has purposed, and in some mysterious way brings to pass, all the evil actions of men, as well as all the good in existence; but this is opposed to scripture, to conscience, and to universal consciousness. Though God as a sovereign purposes all that he does, and does all that he purposes to do, he does not purpose or determine *our actions*. He worketh all things after the counsel of his own will, that is to say, he does all that *he* does because he wills to do it; but this is a very different thing from the doings of his will-endowed creatures. His doing all that he does according to the counsel of his own will is one thing; and our working, or doing all that we do according to the counsel of his will, is quite a different thing. The first of these is a truth, the second is condemned as false by his word, and our conscience.

The passages of Scripture which prove the doctrine of Divine sovereignty are very numerous; we shall only cite a few. When speaking of the powerlessness and utter worthlessness of the idols of silver and gold which the benighted nations worshipped, the Psalmist exclaims, "But our God is in the heavens, he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased." "Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in the heavens, and in the earth, in the sea and in all deep places."

When Job was in the darkest hour of his adversity, and in the deep waters of affliction, we find him vindicating the Divine sovereignty, in the following lofty and sublime language: "Which doeth great things past finding out:—yea and wonders without number. Lo! he goeth by me, and I see him not: he passeth on also, but I perceive him not. Behold he taketh away, who can hinder him? Who will say unto him, what doest