

CHRISTIAN MORALITY.

DR ISAAC BARROW, a distinguished theologian and mathematician, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge: 1630-1677.

ANOTHER peculiar excellency of our religion is, that it prescribes an accurate rule of life, most agreeable to reason and to our nature, most conducive to our welfare and content, tending to procure each man's private good, and to promote the public benefit of all, by the strict observance whereof we bring our human nature to a resemblance of the divine; and we shall also thereby obtain God's favour, oblige and benefit men, and procure to ourselves the conveniences of a sober life, and the pleasure of a good conscience. For, if we examine the precepts which respect our duty to God, what can be more just, pleasant, or beneficial to us, than are those duties of piety which our religion enjoins? What is more fit and reasonable than that we should most highly esteem and honour Him who is most excellent? that we should bear the sincerest affection for Him who is perfect goodness Himself, and most beneficial to us? that we should have the most awful dread of Him who is infinitely powerful, holy, and just? that we should be very grateful to Him from whom we received our being, with all the comforts and conveniences of it? that we should entirely trust and hope in Him who can and will do whatever we may in reason expect from His goodness, nor can He ever fail to perform His promises? that we should render all due obedience to Him, whose children, servants, and subjects we are? Can there be a higher privilege than to have liberty of access to Him, who will favourably hear, and is fully able to supply our wants? Can we desire to receive benefits on easier terms than the asking for them? Can a more gentle satisfaction for our offences be required than confessing of them, repentance, and strong resolutions to amend them? The practice of such a piety, of a service so reasonable, cannot but be of vast advantage to us, as it secures peace of conscience, a comfortable hope, a freedom from all terrors and scruples of mind, from all tormenting cares and anxieties.

And if we consider the precepts by which our religion regulates our carriage and behaviour towards our neighbours and brethren, what can be imagined so good and useful as those which the gospel affords? It enjoins sincerely and tenderly to love one another; earnestly to desire and delight in each other's good; heartily to sympathize with all the evils and sorrows of our brethren, readily affording them all the help and comfort we are

ab
th
fri
of
be
re
bu
co
tru
tio
ou
ou
an
to
nes
bit
our
ow
me
soc
wor

W
STE
O d
Wh
To c
Tho
Wh
Fro
And

Ther
Be c
Whe
Upo
Glad

Who
Long
But t