

it could reach ; in its most attractive form it was but little better than a system for men regarded as intellectual machines, the regularity of whose movements could only be secured by removing all the disturbing forces of the natural passions and desires.

How different the religion of the Bible, which supplies an object engrossing all the faculties and affections of man ! Not satisfied with the cold verdict of reason in its behalf, it appeals to every inward principle—grasping the affections, it takes captive the whole soul, and binds the heart to glad obedience by the cords of love. If we were required to express the sum and substance of Christianity in one word, that word would be “ Love,” God its author is love—by love all its duties are fulfilled.

“ Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.—This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it.—Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

In the text our duties towards God and towards man are distinguished ; we shall consider them as they are thus presented, and endeavour, with the Divine blessing, to point out not merely the reasonableness of these commandments, but the manifestations of obedience to them, which are exhibited in the life.

The relation between a child and its parent is one of the most endearing ties, which this world knows.—There is no one, whose heart is unacquainted with that strong attachment, which binds us to the authors of our existence. Instinct teaches it in infancy, habit strengthens it in youth, and the judgment ratifies it in maturity.