

He has spread a firmament over us of illimitable blue, and has filled it with myriads of beautiful orbs of light. He has given us the sun to light and warm the earth by day, to make the fields and forests "bring forth and bud," and to reveal to us the beauties of the works of his hands. He has given us the moon and stars to give light by night, and to help also to reveal the glory of the Creator, for "the heavens declare the glory of God." Beneath the surface of the earth He has laid up vast stores of minerals, useful and precious, and reservoirs of oil. He has covered the earth with animals for man's service, and with vegetation for his and their use. He has painted the grass a green which is restful to the eye, and has sprinkled it with flowers of exquisite form and hue. In these and many other ways, in preparing the earth for his habitation, God has manifested his care for man.

When we turn our attention from the world about us to our own bodies and minds, and consider the susceptibilities of the natures with which God has endowed us, we have further weighty evidence of this fact, that He cares for us. If He did not care for us He could easily have given us no susceptibilities but those of pain. He might have given us a taste to which all food would be bitter, an ear upon which all sounds would jar, an eye to which all sights would be unpleasant, a sense of smell to which all odors would be offensive, a sense of touch to which all surfaces would be painful. He might have endowed us with a mental nature which would find no pleasure in the pursuit of knowledge, and a moral nature which would give us pain when we did right; and pleasure when we did wrong. In a word, if God did not care for us, He could have given us a nature with susceptibilities which would make our life here a very hell on earth. But He has given us a nature with susceptibilities which can give us the most varied and

exquisite enjoyment. He has given us a moral nature which usually makes it pleasant to do right, and painful to do wrong, and has endowed us with intellectual powers which are capable of almost unlimited development, and which often find the keenest delight in the pursuit of knowledge. He has given us a sense of touch which finds certain surfaces grateful, a sense of smell which is pleased with sweet odors, a taste which makes the partaking of food pleasant, an eye which can thrill the soul with its visions of the beauties of art and of nature, and an ear which can charm us with "the concord of sweet sounds." The fact that God has formed us with such capacities for enjoyment, and has created such a beautiful world for our habitation, is an evidence that He cares for us.

(2.) We have another evidence of this interesting fact that God cares for us in the providence which He exercises over us. He sustains our life completely and constantly. He does not take care of us as a parent takes care of a child, by attending to our wants periodically, and leaving us most of the time to ourselves. He surrounds us and supports us, and penetrates us with life every moment. We are liable unconsciously to become taken up with the idea that God winds us up, as we wind up a piece of machinery, and then lets us run for a while, until we need winding up again. But that idea is utterly out of keeping with the fact. God is constantly actively engaged in supporting our life. He never for a moment withdraws His sustaining power from us. In our waking and in our sleeping, He is ceaselessly directly exerting that power to make the heart beat, and the thin red tide flow in our veins, and the lungs inhale and exhale the breath of life. If He should cease to do so for a moment, that moment would be our last. In Him we exist. As the apostle finely puts it; "In Him we live, and move, and have our being."