

is the chief link between the visible and the invisible, the clearest impress of the divine upon our being. In the old Puritan life it was ever prominent. We have already had occasion variously to glance at its workings. We need not say at large, what careful ponderings of duty it undertook, what bold and uncompromising decisions it reached, what a lofty superiority to human opinion it manifested, what burdens it bore, or what sacrifices it made. I need not remind you what moral transformations it wrought, how dissoluteness of manners gave place to strictness and sobriety, and a high spiritual tone, manifest not only in the more elevated walks of life, and in the leading minds, but in the humbler and less cultivated classes. That all was gold that glittered, that there was nothing of cant and hypocrisy, especially at the period when Puritanism held the reins of civil power, we do not affirm. In the most precious ore from the mine we look for something of alloy. Ever, in the history of our world, when the sons of God come to present themselves before the Lord, Satan comes also among them. Yet Macaulay tells us, that the very army of Cromwell, renowned as it was for valor, was chiefly distinguished "by the austere morality and the fear of God which pervaded all ranks." "It is acknowledged by the most zealous Royalists," he says, "that in that singular camp, no oath was heard, no drunkenness or gambling was seen; and that, during the long dominion of the soldiery, the property of the peaceable citizen, and