

of Christ's self-application of these words, were we entering upon a full discussion of this particular topic, we may safely affirm it, at least in point of fact.

But it is apparent from the very language in which it is expressed, that the truth contained in the text is characterised by an obvious pertinency and universal concernment to mankind. It is a warning and admonitory formula for all the living who would not live in vain, but who, knowing they have a work to do, and a time as well as the means for doing it, would strive to acquit themselves manfully and faithfully in the several spheres of labour allotted to them. It is a sacred proverb from the lips of Jesus, intended to sanctify the shortness and uncertainty of our mortal existence, by reminding us of the great end for which we have been made and the lofty aims by which we should be governed, and by guarding us effectually against the disappointment and danger of an idle, unprofitable career. It is, moreover, a declaration of the deeply interesting circumstance, that, in respect of all the actual conditions of humanity, its sinfulness alone excepted, there exists a common ground for the Saviour and the sinner; around which, the Son of Man, representing the whole brotherhood whose nature he assumed, diffuses the hallowing grace of his wondrous condescension in becoming one of us, and from which he pours into the hearts of his earnest