

There is much of God wrapt up in light so bright and dazzling, that no created eye can gaze upon it. Yet notwithstanding all this we can know something about God,—His being, His nature, His moral perfections, and His government, as these shine forth in His works of creation, of providence, and in the plan of redemption.

Divine sovereignty is a subject from the study of which a great many shrink back with dread. This dread does not spring out of the nature of the subject but out of the false ideas of God which they entertain. They have unworthy thoughts of God, thoughts which fill their minds with dread, instead of delight, with fear instead of love, with terror instead of trust. We believe that Divine sovereignty, when rightly understood, is fitted to fill the mind with admiration, confidence, and complacency.

The written revelation is the lamp of light, sent down from heaven to let us see our way back to the home and the heart of God. The Bible tells us that God is love,—that he is a just God and a Saviour, and points us to Bethlehem, to Gethsemane, and to Calvary, for the evidence.

We have made these remarks at the very outset because many have written and spoken about the sovereignty of God in such a way, as to convey quite a false idea of the character and will of the Ruler of the universe. Before speaking of the manifestations which God has given us of His sovereignty, we shall first define what we understand by the term, and prove from Scripture that God is a sovereign.

Divine sovereignty, as we understand it, is just *God's absolute and uncontrollable right to do whatsoever he pleases to do*. In his purposes, his plans, his actions, he is under the direction and control of no created being, or class of beings whatsoever. The absolute Sovereign never acts from necessity. His will is not, and cannot be, a necessitated will. All that God does he pleases to do, and he might have done otherwise had he so willed. It has been well said, "If God acted by necessity, he would be the subject of necessity. Necessity would be his Sovereign and the Sovereign of all his acts. But as God is free, he is possessed of free-will, of infinite free-will. And he is therefore, in the exercise of his free-will sovereign in relation to all that he does, and by consequence in relation to all those creatures, who owe their existence to the action of his will." * All the attributes of Jehovah are absolutely infinite, and his sovereignty is just his absolute uncontrollable prerogative to

* Evangelical Repository, Vol. IV Page 13-14