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THE STATE OF THE JEWS.

Mr. Sharon Turner, a gentleman residing near London, England—the accomplished author of the “History of the Anglo-Saxons” and other valuable publications,—has lately issued an elaborate work, in three volumes, entitled “The Sacred History of the World, attempted to be philosophically considered,” in which he has discussed a multitude of interesting subjects connected with his main design, with great ability. He has brought an immense collection of facts to bear upon the topics of his investigation; and has established and illustrated various principles of great importance, in their relation to human sentiments and conduct. In his second volume he has a Letter on the Formation, Increase, and Decline of the Jewish nation, &c.—from which we make the following extract. After alluding to the manner in which the Almighty communicated his will to his servants in ancient times, which he supposes was in part through the medium of human language, he thus pursues the subject.

“It was, I think, in this way that the Deity made himself known to Abraham, by repeated intercourse and transactions with him. In the

same manner he enlarged human knowledge of himself by his additional communications to Jacob; and afterward in a sublimer and more extensive degree to Moses and the whole Israelitish nation; at times, drawing the kindly affections of the human heart to admire, love, and bless him; and at others exciting awe, fear, and adoration, by stupendous displays of his omnipotent majesty.

But it is obvious that condescension and education like this cannot be repeated to every individual who arises in human life; nor is it necessary; for what is fully exhibited and intelligibly represented to one, and made perceptible by him, becomes sufficiently impressive and instructive to all others; as soon as the sacred intercourse is fitly described in human language, and recorded, and so communicated to others. In reading the divine appearances and communications to Abraham, Jacob, and Moses, as narrated in the Pentateuch, I have a satisfactory acquisition of the same kind of knowledge of my God as those patriarchs received from them.

For these reasons I infer that one great purpose of the formation of the Hebrew nation was that in order to