

the deepest truth, with only such exaggeration as is required in the formation of a type, which is always fallen short of in practice." These two men, looking at human nature from different points of view, observed a radical evil in its present character, which rendered sincere obedience to the perfect moral law impracticable. Yet they professed to expect that in course of time the human race would become perfectly good without the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. All, indeed, who think that the precept of the moral law is the only thing very valuable in christianity slight Christ, and imagine that, without Him there is virtue enough in humanity to raise mankind to perfection. The obstacle presented by guilt and depravity, they suppose, would gradually disappear as men advanced in self-culture. Rather than despair of a good issue to human effort, unbelievers, who discredit miracles wrought by God, prefer to trust in the idea of an omnipotence in the human will. But what in the natural course of things, can we reasonably expect from the development of humanity under the dominion of sin? Natural causes operating according to natural laws, the sinful heart will become more sinful. "When we were in the flesh, the motions of sins which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death." There is no good ground for hope that men left to themselves would ever work out their own redemption and rise to a life of true holiness. Thanks be to God, our Saviour, the greatest benefit Christ has conferred on us is, not the republication of the moral