

godhead. Whether, with the aid of the telescope, we endeavour to wander through the immensity of space, and to make ourselves acquainted with the numberless systems which it presents to our contemplation ; or, with the aid of the microscope, we analyze the minute organisms that may be thus detected in the enjoyment of life and in full activity within the compass of a drop of water, we cannot fail to be struck with the manifested glory of him "who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in working."

Angels great in might, too, illustrate his character as the moral governor of the universe, while, in his dealings with some we mark his inflexible justice, and his burning wrath against sin ; and in his dealings with others we see those overflowings of his bounty and goodness which draw forth the ceaseless praises of those who hasten to do his will. But besides all this, he has been pleased to select a peculiar people from the family of mankind, even the election of grace, to be as it were, the inner sanctuary of this temple, in his dealings with whom he might shew what divine love is, the sovereignty in which it is exercised, its forbearance with its objects, the blessedness which it contemplates for them, the sacrifices which it cheerfully makes in their behalf, the unwearied perseverance with which it prosecutes its aim, till, notwithstanding all the obstruction which it meets with, both from themselves and from others, it makes them objects on whom, in perfect consistency with the holiness of his own character, God can look with divine complacency, whom he can receive into closest intercourse with himself, and in whom he can take delight for ever, saying, "This is my rest for ever ; here will I dwell ; for I have desired it."

It is on the Son of His love that the Father has devolved the execution of this work, and it is in answer to the call thus addressed to Him that He says, "Lo, I come—I delight to do thy will, O my God." He knew that in bringing many sons unto glory, He Himself must be made perfect through sufferings. He knew what the sacrifice was by which the guilt of their multiplied transgressions was to be expiated. He knew the corruptions—the deep carnality of those whom He was to form into temples of the living God. He knew their waywardness, their proneness to err, the snares that would be laid for them, and the numerous assaults to which they would be exposed. He knew all this from