

ting the mind to a sublime spirituality, communicating the most enlarged views of the divine character and Providence, giving strength to support amid the most distressing vicissitudes, and calming the breast which throbs with the anguish of guilt. Religion in fact operates a most beneficial change even on the *intellectual* condition of man. It strengthens his faculties. It enlarges his conceptions. It gives him clear ideas on the most sublime subjects which can engage the mind of man. It supplies the want of outward comforts, while it expands the soul with anticipations of future bliss. Even to the most wretched of our species, it points to a source of joy ever accessible. It furnishes objects on which the mind may dwell with satisfaction. It dispels the gloom which encompasses surrounding objects, and leads forward to that world of light, where "we shall see face to face, and know even as we are known." It is in its application to such exigencies that the superior excellence of religion is best perceived. We *know* independently of experiment and fact, that religion is the most excellent thing and a source of the purest joy, but in the case of its alleviating actual suffering, we *see* that it is so. An argument is furnished which comes home to every mind, and operates with a force which we may resist, but cannot overcome. The triumphs of divine grace are displayed and christianity is found to be indeed the friend of man.

IV. The exercise of brotherly kindness and charity is highly conducive to the happiness of man.—When we "rejoice with those who rejoice," we participate in their felicity; nay, when we visit the house of mourning, to "weep with those who weep," to soften the pillow on which the hoary head of age reclines, and to cause "the widow's heart to sing for joy," we cherish a tender pleasure, and share in those consolations which we impart to others. Benevolence, indeed, is so agreeable to the common notions of mankind, that every one condemns the mean and sordid spirit of that wretch whom God has blest with abundance and consequently with the means of blessing