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“ PROVE ALL THINGS, HOLD FAST THAT WHICH IS GOOD.”

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## HOPE.

Hope is the expectation of something good, and is the mainspring of every man's life. It is alike the resident of the castle and the cot. Without it the world would be a blank, and every member of Adam's family would exhibit a monument of despair! She kindled her first fire, as a beacon to the fugitive of Eden, when he took his last long lingering look at his loved abode, conscious that he was quitting his sunny bower forever, with guilt inscribed upon his heart, despair lowering on his brow, and the world, to him, drooping in mourning,—but he sees on a distant shore the faint glimmering of the taper of Hope! In every age, and in every clime, from that period to the present, she has ever been the companion and comforter of man. She at one time stimulates the Patriarch to forsake his own country and seek a better: she encourages Moses to disregard the stern mandates of Pharaoh, and Joshua to pass through and subdue seven nations in arms and at last to obtain the promised patrimony. But the time would fail me to describe all the places and conditions in which Hope has been the buoy of safety to the drifting vessels of distressed humanity. We shall not attempt to describe the hope of the fond parent watching the dangers which attend the loved and only child; nor the high, though oft disappointed, hope of the youth attempting to climb the rugged hill of science, nor the fond hope of the mariner who has braved the fury of the rude tempest, and is now on his 'homeward voyage;' nor the hopes of the ten thousand adventures in pursuit of the baubles of time; but shall content ourselves with elucidating one prominent object of hope.

Almost every man has heard of the idea, of eternal life, and we may safely conclude that there never was a man who heard of it, and understood the idea designed to be communicated, but who desired it above all things else. Yes: no sooner does the sound of immortality strike the ear than it becomes the strongest desire of the human