

wilderness as her retreat ; her sons “ of whom the world was not worthy, wandered in deserts and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth ;” but the clear atmosphere of Truth sustained her, during centuries of trial, and when at length the darkness increased, and the case seemed almost hopeless, then “ man’s extremity became God’s opportunity,” and the bright light of the Reformation burst forth, and cast its heavenly illumination far and wide. And since that glorious era, the powers of darkness have struggled hard to mar the work of our Reformers, and to bring back upon us, from time to time, the errors of a darker age ; but what avails it ? The force of truth prevails. The Church of God remains. She is strengthening her stakes, and lengthening her cords, and sending her messengers afar, and the distant hills are catching the beams of her truth, and the watchmen are lifting up their voices to hail them in strains of triumph—“ how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth !”

But the most glorious exercise of loving-kindness, remains to be considered. It is to be traced, not in the works of nature, beautiful, attractive, and beneficent as they are ; not in the dealings of providence, unceasingly as they administer to our comfort ; but in the work of redemption, where we behold “ mercy and truth meeting together, righteousness and peace embracing each other.” But how shall we survey this work ? In what aspect shall I present it to your view ? Shall I point you to the Father’s love, in sacrificing for our souls the dearest object of heaven ? Shall I remind you, that “ God spared not his own Son, but freely delivered him up for us all ?” that “ herein was love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins ?” Shall I recall to your thoughts our own wretched condition, that “ we were foolish, disobedient, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another ; but after that the kindness