
A S E R M O N.

2 PETER I. 5, 7—"Giving all diligence, add to—Godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity.

THE wisdom of God is conspicuously displayed, in the adaptation of our moral powers and capacities, to the relations which we are called to sustain. In the moral constitution of man, a foundation is laid for all the diversified duties and enjoyments which the social union necessarily involves. Were he destined to be a solitary animal, shunning by instinctive influence the haunts of his fellow creatures, and brooding over his own sorrows, without a friend to alleviate their pressure, we might expect that his original constitution would accord with his actual destiny. But "man was born in society, and there he remains."* In whatever degrees of civilization human beings are found to exist, they are ever observed to associate. An invisible, but powerful link, connects mind with mind, and man with man. Indeed, it is as obvious as any thing of the kind can be, that had not this been the case in every age and country, the species must long ago have ceased to exist. Viewing, then, the fact as it is, that man does actually exist in a social state—it is interesting and pleasing to mark the wise arrangement which has accommodated his native capacities to his actual condition. Whence the parental and filial affections which expand the soul with an ardour and energy inextinguishable? Whence the high emotions of delight with which

the

* Montesquieu.