

demanding, as atonement for their disruption and violation, and at the same time as indispensable to a renewal of them, a satisfaction, which the other party was now, through his transgression, utterly incapable of rendering. We have before said, and we would remind you of it here, that these two parties were **GOD** and man; —**GOD**, Almighty, able to do every thing, “able to destroy both soul and body in Hell;” \* man, weak, not able to do anything, † either to preserve his body, ‡ or to redeem his soul. What a condition, consequently, was that of man! What a fearful condition! An omnipotent **GOD** against him with demands he could not satisfy: and upon him, besides this curse, “Thou shalt surely die,” § (which did not simply denounce temporal death, the separation of soul and body, but included with that, eternal death, that is, the eternal tormenting of both soul and body, in the deathful regions of Hell!) whilst he could not by himself escape from the infliction of these, the just, wages of his sin! At the consideration of this, again are we constrained to exclaim, What a melancholy present! what a dreary future! War—estrangement—and no known method of reconciliation and peace!

But at this crisis, interposed the Divine Mercy and Wisdom, with a scheme, capable at once of satisfying the Divine Justice, and of relieving human wretchedness. Instantly were heard the glad tidings of Peace: under the Old Testament, promises and prophecies, as we have seen, conveyed them to the world—such glad tidings as these,—all the evil consequences of man’s disobedience were to be remedied; barrenness to be superseded by blooming plenty; poverty by riches; separation by union; enmity by friendship. Years rolled on,—the light that emanated from, the hope engendered by, these announcements, cheering, in the midst of surrounding gloom and darkness, the heart of every faithful Believer. And then, “when the fulness of time was come,” according to the plan and counsels of His will, “**God**,” in ful-

\* Matt. x., 28.

† Matt. vi., 27, and following verses.

‡ Psalm xlix., 7, and 15. § Genesis ii., 17.