

accept it always, and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness."

And this is, I believe, the only place in which the word occurs in scripture.

Now, considering the variety of lovely and appropriate designations of our Lord supplied in scripture, it strikes me as rather unaccountable that we should stoop to borrow from heathen orators and poets, either the general and vague term "NATURE," or the equally indistinct one of "PROVIDENCE," as phrases by which to speak of either the stated or the occasional operations of God's hand. Yet as we are constantly told, on the one hand, that *Nature* supplies, provides, compensates, and regulates all the visible machinery of the universe; so, on the other, it is constantly *Providence* that is said to watch over the doings, deservings, errors, and dangers of human beings, and to punish or recompense, as far as this life is concerned, their misdeeds or good endeavours.

Now it shall be admitted at once, that these phrases *may* be justly and properly employed;—as, for instance, when Mr. Leigh Richmond speaks of studying the character of God in three books,—the book of Nature, the book of Providence, and the book of Grace. But the question is not whether such terms may be safely and profitably adopted in such a form as this, and by such a man as Mr. Richmond, but whether the manner in which they are ordinarily employed does not savour somewhat of a device of Satan, tending to banish the name of God himself as much as possible from men's conversation, and thus to keep it as far as may be, out of remembrance.

The apostolic language is, "if the Lord will:" "if the Lord permit:" "the Lord stood with me and strengthened me:" "Prepare me a lodging, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you." Men, now-a-days, even of some religious profession, think they show an equal sense of the divine superintendence and government by sometimes slipping off the tongue a "please providence," or "providentially, it happened so and so." Now I cannot help thinking that in most cases there is a greater evasion of the apostolic injunction in such cases, than in the brief sign (D. V.) upon which an esteemed correspondent of the Christian Lady's Magazine some time back animadverted.

But it is time I passed on to observe—

2. That there is probably a still greater practical evil in the second point to which I have alluded, than in the first. The point I mean is this;—the substituting, in the place of the Saviour, and the Gospel, as the only way of salvation, a something which is called "RELIGION."

Again I ask, is this, in the sense in which it is constantly used, a scriptural phrase? Not at all. The word occurs in Acts xxvi. 5, and in Galat. i. 13, 14, with reference solely to the performance of the Levitical rites and ceremonies. It is again used in James i. 27