

seen in the existence of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, which we read was placed in the midst of the Garden of Eden. From all points it could be seen. It was deemed necessary to prove Adam's fidelity. The moral effects of good, as opposed to evil, could not be known without some such test. Virtue could not be determined to exist if temptation were removed. God created man perfect, with a capacity to love and to reason. He surrounded him also with a superabundance of blessings, to desire beyond which was sin without excuse. In the manifold goodness thus exhibited God left him the custodian of his own destiny, and appealed to his honor and gratitude for the service of obedience. But, though God was bounteous in the creative gifts, certifying His love: so also was He firm and true in the administration of justice. This He made known in the immediate expulsion of Adam from the conditions of blessedness in which he had been placed. No palliatory excuse was admitted for disobedience to a