

the manner in which, through the determinate councils of God, all former history prepared for the full revelation of God's will in Jesus. The history of Gentiles as well as of Jews unconsciously converged to this end. However learned, imaginative, wise, or powerful other nations, like the Greeks and Romans, might be, and by these qualities prepared the globe, when christianized, to receive in due time the arts and sciences, to add to the comforts and virtues of domestic life ;* to the Jewish nation was reserved the gift of cherishing a spirit of heartfelt piety. They alone, of all nations, had all their writings penetrated with the persuasion of one supreme being, at all times present, always caring for his creatures, and by whom every event takes place. The Jews ascribe, and justly so, every event to God's power and goodness. They betray no symptom of atheism by making a distinction between events natural and supernatural. All things are and were of God : all are imbued with His spirit ; all takes place at His command. However vicious, ignorant, and headstrong, the Jewish nation often proved themselves, they always possessed prophets and heroes impressed deeply with God's spirit, who recalled them back to his worship, and continually revived a devout spirit within them. They reminded them too from time to time of the early promise that there would hereafter come some mightier agent of God's will, unto whom they should hearken.

* It is true that some degree of civilization must precede a true reception of the glad tidings brought by Christ,—and so far did Roman and Grecian Arts and Sciences prepare the way for Christianity. But it is likewise true, as here observed, that the world must be christianized before anything like a genuine civilization can take place. The spirit of the gospel can alone banish war, drunkenness, and other vices from society ; and not till then—not till the spirit of christian love is shed abroad throughout the world—will all the blessings conferred by the arts of music, painting, and sculpture, or by the various philosophical sciences, be fully enjoyed.