

doctrine which is to be met with in some form or other in all ages and amongst all peoples. In Christianity of course we find this great truth brought to light in all the glory of its fulness, shining out conspicuously like the mid-day sun. In the Old Testament it beams forth with the paler and borrowed light of the moon, and in other nations shines only with the fainter lustre of the stars ; but amongst all there is some light, however dim, guiding the traveller through the dark passage of death to the bright land which lies beyond. The reality of the spiritual world has been more or less felt wherever human beings have existed ; and every man who has reflected upon external nature, and the contrast between it and his own inner life, may have been led to address his soul in the sublime language of Addison :

“The stars shall fade away, the sun himself
Grow dim with age, and Nature sink in years ;
But thou shalt flourish in immortal youth,
Unhurt amidst the war of elements,
The wreck of matter and the crash of worlds.”
