

charging, by its natural powers, any part of the duty of a dependent rational being. And it will appear, that the Gospel scheme of Redemption, so far from rejecting all co-operation of man, requires human exertions as indispensably necessary to obtain the effectual assistance of the Holy Spirit." This account appears to be more consonant to Scripture, in which we no where find mankind designated as utterly lost to all sense of good. Were the beautiful consequences, mentioned by Dr. Chalmers, to follow a belief in the doctrine of total depravity, it might be deemed of less consequence; but this is seldom the case; on the contrary, this error in doctrine too frequently affords an excuse for a continuance in sin; as we can do nothing for ourselves, we must wait God's good time. It will, indeed, always be found, that one error in belief produces many in practice; and in this case, it cannot be otherwise, for there appears to be no connexion between goodness and a mass of corruption. It is of no use to exhort the man to walk who can neither move hand nor foot. It is nevertheless presumed, that much of the difference which prevails among Christians on this doctrine would disappear, were the terms used by each clearly defined; for, if the disciple of Calvin means simply to state, that man can do nothing without the Divine assistance, there can be no dispute, as all must acknowledge the abstract truth, that every thing happens through the power of God; but if he means, that those who heard and saw Jesus, were not of themselves capable of appreciating his excellence, the purity of his precepts, and the holiness of his doctrines, we feel, previous to all reasoning on the subject, that the fact is not so. We all are conscious of possessing the power of distinguishing between good and evil, of acting or not according to our pleasure; at the same time, it is freely admitted, that this power is ultimately derived from God. That a certain sphere of action is given us, and for the use of which privilege, we are accountable, seems to be the undeniable language of holy Writ, for it is continually reproaching those who have abused it, threatening them with punishment.

*(To be continued.)*