

sins,"* to teachableness, light, and life.—This, then, is the history of the case. There were two parties, God and man, both holy ;—God the Creator, holy, and man the creature, "made in the image, after the likeness"† of the Creator, also holy. In this state of mutual holiness, all was mutual harmony and good-will ; and there was obedience on the part of man. But in an evil hour man, the creature, listened, alas ! to the voice of one, who was anxious to interrupt this harmony, and destroy this good-will, and annihilate this obedience !

The arguments of the subtle Tempter prevailed ;—and man, in the vain and proud and unholy pursuit after undue exaltation, ‡ through the inconsistent desire of becoming a God, fell, instantly fell, far below the rank which had been assigned him in the scale of created things ;—he sank at once to the disgrace and depravity of a Devil ! He defied the power that had formed him ; pushed away the hand that had continued to supply and support him ; forgot the blessings and the privileges that encompassed him, and their munificent Giver ;—§ the produce of the teeming ground, all, but in one little instance, his own ; and this unsought, unlaboured for ;—"the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and every living thing that moved upon the earth,"|| all under his "dominion," all at his free disposal ;—in a word, he became an ingrate to his Benefactor, a traitor to his King, a rebel against his God !

Thus, man made war against God ; and God necessarily set His face against man ; we say, necessarily, because, though a Being of infinite Mercy, He is also a Being of perfect Justice, and of consummate Purity ; and such ¶ Justice cannot overlook the wilful transgression of its enactments, and let it go unpunished ;—such * Purity cannot behold with complacency "the worker of iniquity."

Here, then, we see the bond of Friendship severed ; the treaty of alliance, and covenant of unity, at an end ; and one party was

* Eph. ii., 1. † Genesis i., 26. ‡ Gen. iii., 5.
§ Gen. i., 29, ii., 16, 17. || Gen. i. 28.
¶ Ps. lxxxix., 14. Rev. xv., 3. * Hab. i., 13.