

from the Caffres, Hottentots, or Soldanians, in the South of Africa; or from the Kamschatkans, in the east corner of Tartary, or Patagonians, in the southern extremity of (this Continent) America; or from the Islanders, in the most southern or northern parts of the Ocean, whom we allow to owe very little of their knowledge to revelation; and then we shall esteem the religion and light of nature more than at present we can; though after all, the case of ancient Greece and Rome, and of modern Europe, would effectually prove, that philosophy is incapable to reform the world.

The Apostle decries not true, but vain philosophy, i. e. the vain fancies which the Heathens blended with truth.—Col. II. 8.

Scripture-mysteries transcend true philosophy, but never oppose it. Nay, philosophy, when used as an handmaid, is of great use to promote the knowledge of the Scriptures. To turn the subject to philosophy more particularly, seeing it is of use in the study of the Holy Scriptures: it may be said that it is the knowledge of things founded on reason and experience. At present, philosophy might be divided into logic, or the science of perception, judgment, reasoning and method; ontology, or the knowledge of the general properties and relations of being; natural philosophy, or the knowledge of material substances, earth, sea, air, fire, celestial luminaries, &c. to which mathematics, optics, hydrostatics, medicine, astronomy, &c. may be reduced; pneumatics,* or the knowledge of spirits; moral

* Our Correspondent must be aware that the term *Pneumatics* is applied exclusively now to that branch of Mechanics, which treats of the laws that regulate the condensation, rarefaction and gravitation of air; and that the technical name for the knowledge of *Spirits* is *Pneumatology*. EDITOR.