

constituted a primary object in any communication from God to man.

To come directly to the point before us, it must be observed that the volume of revelation was not given to angels, nor written for them; nor was it given to man in his primitive state, nor adapted to a perfect innocent being; but it was designed for, addressed to, and conferred upon fallen and polluted human beings, composed of soul, body, and spirit, in such circumstances as those in which we first find ourselves when introduced to life. From all which the inference is unavoidable, viz. :—that the bible is designed for, and adapted to, the children of men in their present circumstances, to improve their condition here, and to fit them to become members of a pure, refined, and exalted society hereafter.

It has long been discovered, and almost universally admitted, that three words constitute the sum total of human misfortune in this life. These are, ignorance, guilt, and bondage. From the brutal ignorance of the Hottentot, up to the refined ignorance of a sceptic philosopher, there are many intermediate degrees; but as respects the true knowledge which the bible communicates, there is a total blank in the extremes and in all the intermediate degrees.

To fit man for heaven, in one sentence, is the design of the whole volume. This being admitted, then it follows that nothing is revealed which is not directly or indirectly conducive to this end. The grand rule or principle on which all revelation has ever proceeded, is this—whatever may or can purify man, is lawful and benevolent to communicate; whatever cannot accomplish this, wisdom says, Disclose it not.

Curiosity has prompted a thousand queries, to which the bible deigns no reply. And why? Because, if answered, they would contribute nothing to the purification of the heart, or to the reformation of the life. God's sublime and glorious scheme of ameliorating and reforming the world is founded upon the actual condition of man. And as intelligence, purity of heart, and rectitude of life, are as inseparably connected with present and future happiness, as ignorance and guilt are with bondage and wretchedness, both here and hereafter, the bible is prepared, was bestowed, and is adapted, to the promotion of intelligence and purity, as perquisites, as indispensables, as a *sine qua non* to happiness. "The whole scripture is divinely inspired, and is profitable for teaching, for confutation, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, and thoroughly fitted for every good work." Intelligence, purity of heart, and uprightness of life, are the sole objects for which the bible was bestowed on the world. As ignorance, guilt and bondage, constitute the sum total of human misery, so intelligence, purity,