

portance of man is here, and in many other parts of the word of God brought before our attention, and the more we study our own being, the moral character of God, and the plan of salvation, the more clearly shall we see that the infinitely glorious One, in whom we live and move and have our being, has magnified us and set his great heart of love upon us.

As the present article is in a great measure introductory, we shall confine our attention to the *importance of man in his creation*.

We know that the first parent of our race was formed out of the dust of the ground by the hand of God, and that he was placed by that same hand at the head, and constituted lord of the lower creation. Many of the animals have more instinct than man, more physical strength, and are far larger than man. But they are all lower in the scale of being, their nature is quite inferior to his. He is a *complex being*; *spiritual as well as material, moral as well as physical*. Rationality, intelligence, free agency, responsibility and accountability are some of the elements, or characteristics peculiar to man as distinguished from all the visible creation. The true nobility and dignity of man cannot be more forcibly or fully expressed than in the language of Scripture: "And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth; and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image; in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Milton, the prince of English poets, has beautifully expressed the dignity of our first parents in the following lines,

"Two of far nobler shape, erect and tall,
God-like erect, with native honour clad,
In naked majesty seem'd lords of all,
And worthy seem'd; for in their looks divine
The image of their glorious Maker shone."

Of course no one conceives for a moment that man was created like God in every respect; for this was in the nature of things impossible. To make a being like himself, possessing infinite intelligence and moral excellency, is what God cannot do. The idea is absurd. But still it is true that man was created in the very image of God. He was endowed with those moral powers and intellectual qualities in a limited degree which are possessed by the