

Even in heaven itself it is a knowledge of the character of the Saviour which gives full completion to the sanctified nature of the Christian: "It doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." Although then, the object of the present essay is to consider the character of Christ as an evidence of the truth of revelation, on account of its superiority to everything of human origin; and although it be acknowledged that we are unable to present a view so striking of the virtues which adorned his character as the simple narratives of the gospel exhibit, yet, if by writing on such a subject we are led to pay more attention to the facts of the Christian history, and to fix our minds more steadily on the leading features of our great exemplar, the labour will be amply rewarded.

I. Then in considering the character of Jesus Christ, we see the most spotless purity. When at the well of Samaria, the disciples brought bread, in order to present it to their master, who was fatigued and spent with his journey, Jesus, intent on the great design of his mission, refused, at the time, to partake of that which the attention of his friends had provided. When the disciples marvelled at his refusal, he said, "I have meat to eat that ye know not of. My meat is to do the will of him that sent me." Thus we see that the will of God was the rule, by which the Messiah guided his conduct. Obedience to his Father in heaven was his continual aim. The law of God which is pure and reaches to the inmost thoughts of the heart, was the ever present standard of duty with him who came to redeem his people from all iniquity. To be pure in heart is as necessary for the servant of him who trieth the reins and the heart, as the exhibition of external rectitude of conduct. We find the Saviour often insisting on the spiritual