

of the woman should bruise the serpent's head, are also proofs of the exercise of a divine mercy through which a respite was granted. As a legislator and moral governor, God did nothing in granting this respite, by which his veracity might be impeached, or which he had not a perfect right to do. In the case of Nineveh, he commanded Jonah to preach, "yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown," and the case of Hezekiah is similar to this; and yet, for good reasons no doubt, he did not, in either case, execute his threatening! Upon principles then, altogether consistent with the divine perfections, were our first parents respited. Time was thus given them to become the parents of sons and daughters; and hence, has the human family we may say, floated into existence upon the mercy of God, through a Redeemer!

But it clearly appears from the scriptures, that the consequences of the first transgression, were not limited to our first parents. In addition to those quoted in the preceding paragraph, we present the following as conclusive: "As by *one man* sin entered into the world, and *death* by sin, and so *death passed upon all men*, for that all have sinned." Rom. v. 12.

All mankind were by the sin of Adam, to a certain extent, involved in his delinquency. As, therefore, Adam was separated from the tree of life on account of his sin, and was also by his separation made subject to a perishing state, so have been all his posterity. As when a wealthy father turns spendthrift and squanders his money, poverty and sometimes shame are entailed upon his children; or, as when through luxury and other vices of parents, children are born the unhappy subjects of hereditary disease, so the posterity of Adam, inherit a loathsome patrimony of evils on account of his defection from the divine law. That part of the Adamic estate, denominated *the tree of life*, which would have kept, had they continued to possess and enjoy it, not only the children of Adam, but himself, in the fruition of perpetual health and life, was wholly forfeited. Hence, his children are heirs to death! "The whole creation groans and travails together in pain until now!" Cast forth into the world without any infallible means of perpetuating health and life, they breathe out in toil and pain the few days of their mortal pilgrimage, and sink into their mother dust!

Could we bring into one group and place under our close inspection, all the miserable beings who have suffered on account of the first transgression; could we have proper conceptions of the quantum of misery endured by the whole group; could we with one glance, behold all their writhing and contortions; could we contemplate through their sighs, groans and tears, the keenness of their pains, and the bitterness of their sorrows; could we then behold them turning pale in sickness, and cold in the icy arms of death, sinking into the grave, undergoing putrefaction, becoming food for noisome worms; then should we have in some good degree, a view of the malignity, the enormity, the horrible nature of sin. God, we think, has permitted these appalling consequences of sin, as mementos of his righteous wrath against it! has even made them a penal infliction, that man might contemplate through