

as in them lies, to fashion their principles and practices according to its holy law?"

"To a certain extent, certainly," said Philip, whose face by this time had become very uncomfortably flushed.

"Very well," resumed the Rector, "here I see is your aunt's Bible, will you just take a pen and ink and blot out any portions of it that you think may best be dispensed with."

"No, indeed," said Philip, "I should be very sorry to do such an act of daring impiety. I hope I am not so wicked as to commit such an action,—though I do not pretend to be much better than other people."

"Now, is it not astonishing," said Mr. Arnold," turning to my mother, "how blind and self-deceived are the children of this world, and how utterly out of proportion are their sentiments and arguments on subjects such as these. Here is your nephew, who professes to believe that the Bible contains the will and commandments of God himself, yet considers himself only bound to obey them to a *certain extent*, and yet he sees less daring impiety in this avowal and premeditated rebellion, than in the simple act of expunging a few sentences from the book itself. Come," he continued, putting a pen into Philip's hand, "be consistent at least. Here you have been teaching your little cousins to think their teacher and their pastor severe and exacting; because they strive to shew them the simple scriptural standard of right and wrong, neither adding to nor altering a sentence of what is written. You have been accusing me of making the path of life needlessly difficult and gloomy, and of discouraging and disgusting those who would gladly embrace the Gospel of Christ upon their own terms, though they refuse to accept it on His; and yet, I hope, you do me so much justice as to believe that I only preach such doctrines as I find in the Bible. You, it seems, could teach me a better method, and I am willing to learn. Take your pen and blot out or amend what you consider superfluous. You had far better do this than wilfully hide the truth from those who are looking to you for instruction and example,—better far,