

The Potter's Wheel

must they not miss the safety and joy of heaven? Were it left to our decision, would we not choose rather that our friends should be cut off from all knowledge of us by the thick veil of oblivion than that from their splendid distance and in their high helplessness they should see and suffer? But are we not too apt to conclude that peace and suffering are inconsistent? Has the Eternal been secluded from all knowledge of human life during those ages? Has not the cry of the miserable been ever in His ears? has not His heart been melted within Him? Was it not on this account that He sent His Son and endured His dying prayer? Did not Christ rise from the dead and sit down on the right hand of the Divine Majesty, and yet does He not share in all the labours and pains of His disciples? Pity and sympathy are not the contradiction of